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The Canadian Jewish news

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Agreement defuses coalition dispute

[Compiled from JTA and UPI dispatches]

A crisis which threatened to shatter the fragile national unity government was resolved as The Canadian Jewish News went to press Dec. 20.

The dispute, which had been simmering since Prime Minister Shimon Peres assumed office last September, was defused when an 11th hour agreement was reached on the allocation of cabinet seats.

According to the agreement, Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz will be minister of interior, while Yosef Burg, the head of the National Religious Party, will be minister of religious affairs.

The key to the pact is how funds from the ministry of religion will be distributed. Forty percent of the budget for regional religious communities will be controlled by Burg, and the rest by Peretz.

The dramatic turnaround culminated a day of feverish political activity and came only hours before Likud cabinet ministers were to meet to decide whether to pull out of the coalition in support of Shas, a Sephardic religious party.

The Likud leader, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said in a national television interview it was up to Labor to solve the crisis and save the unity government from collapse.

Shamir accused Peres of worsening the crisis by not moving swiftly enough to resolve it.

He said some Labor leaders, whom he did not identify, apparently sought to kill the unity government because it stood in the way of their dovish politics.

"The Prime Minister said he is in favor of a national unity government, but talking is not enough and an effort must be made to resolve the crisis that makes it impossible for us to go on," Shamir said before the compromise was reached.

If Likud had voted to quit the 9-party coalition out of loyalty to Shas, the 98-day government would have collapsed and new elections would have had to be called.

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ISRAELI WOMEN PROTEST

Nineteen women dressed in prison garb and chained together marched recently on Human Rights Day in Tel Aviv to protest Soviet violations of the human rights section of the Helsinki Agreement. The march began at the Finnish embassy and ended at the U.S. embassy. The sign being carried has a picture of a Soviet Jew, Alexander Yakir, the text reads: "On trial in the Soviet Union." [IPPA photo]

U.S. official foresees aid request problems

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) —

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam indicated last week that Israel will not get all of the increased aid it is asking for because, if its economic austerity program works, Israel will not need it and because of the difficulty in increasing foreign aid in a time of cutbacks in U.S. domestic programs.

His remarks at a briefing for foreign reporters came as two teams of Israeli officials began talks with state department officials reportedly aimed at seeking $4.1 billion in economic and military aid for Israel in the 1986 fiscal year, as compared to $2.6 billion in the current 1985 fiscal year. Israel is also asking for an additional $800 million in emergency economic aid for 1985. (See also Wolf Blitzer on page 2.)

"With regard to the economic assistance, we are prepared to be of assistance provided there is a serious and credible economic program announced and implemented by Israel," Dam said when asked about the Israeli request in his year-end briefing at the Foreign Press Centre here.

But he stressed that the economic program is one of which Israel will have to decide for itself, although the U.S. will feel free to comment on it.

He said while it was "premature" to discuss the "numbers," the figure may not be as high as reported if the Israel austerity program is credible. If it is not credible then Israel's problems will not only be economic, he added.

While stressing that he was speaking generally about foreign aid, and not specifically about Israel, Dam said the United states will be operating under an "extremely difficult budget environment" in which domestic programs are being cut and so it will "not be easy" to increase foreign aid to any country.

Israel is reportedly asking for an additional $800 million to the $1.2 billion it is receiving in the current year in economic aid. Israel is also asking that economic aid be increased to $1.9 billion in the 1986 fiscal year. In military aid Israel is receiving $1.4 billion which it would like increased by $700 million to total $2.1 billion in the 1986 fiscal year.

Early issue

This issue of The CJN, dated Dec. 27, was printed Dec. 20 so as to get into the mail before the Christmas-Boxing Day postal holidays. Normally, the paper is printed on Mondays and in the mail on Tuesdays.

Because we had to print ahead of time, we are only able to bring you the news that happened up to and including Dec. 20.

So in case we're a little behind on some of the news this week, you will understand why it happened.

Hopefully, we'll be back to some degree of normalcy with the Jan. 3 edition.

Jews have "absolute privilege"

Cardinal calls for dialogue

ROME (JTA) —

An "absolutely privileged" position must be given the Jewish community and tradition in interreligious dialogue, Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here last week. He also spoke of how interpretations of biblical text injurious to Jews can be removed from Christian teaching.

Cardinal Martini was interviewed after releasing to the press a new papal dialogue, a "post-synodal apostolic exhortation on reconciliation and penance" which examines conflict in human society on all levels.

He explained to the JTA that three of the four biblical passages claimed as basic source material for the papal document — Genesis 3, Genesis 11 and Psalm 50 — are passages from the Jewish scriptures — clear evidence, he said, of Christianity's Jewish heritage.

The cardinal recalled the statement he made last July at a meeting of the International Conference of Christians and Jews at Vallombrosa, on the necessity "to remove tendentious or injurious interpretations of biblical texts from Christian teaching." Asked how, in light of the new papal document's stated aim of "promoting sincere ecumenical dialogue" this could be implemented, Martini said he believed it must be done on two levels.

One was "the idea of dialogue . . . the capacity to understand the other's values and point of view. And this is true — a fortiori — in a sense of absolute privilege for the Jewish community and for the Jewish roots of Christian history."

He pointed out that "passages of the Old Testament are at the basis of this vision of man."

The second level, according to Martini, is centred around the catechism.

"It is within catechistical (teaching) that we must work at the enlightenment . . . Catechism must be presented with care, with attention, with precision, bound to the word of God. As guidelines we already have, for example, the norms laid down by the Secretariat for Christian Unity which are an invitation to this type of catechism, and which can be applied through the indications in this document of apostolic exhortation," the cardinal said.

"It seems to me," he added, "that these are the two lines we must emphasize in our progress toward knowledge, throwing light on ambiguities — if only in terminology — and then in giving full value to the Jewish heritage, to Jewish culture, to Jewish compassion and piety."

The papal document examines conflicts between peoples, between religions and social classes. It emphasizes individual responsibility as opposed to the passive acceptance of evils by shifting the blame on abstractions such as "society" or "class."

National program for Jewish singles

CJC sets up matchmaking service

By JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —

A non-profit matchmaking program for Jewish singles has been set up by Canadian Jewish Congress to fill what is seen as a long-felt need in the community. The Jewish Introduction Service is open to all ages, but is targeting the 20-to-40 years age group.

Such a service has been under discussion since 1975, and has been developed largely through the efforts of Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat, spiritual leader of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and chairman of the CJC Commission on Marriage and the Family, and his sister Rita Finestone, who for nine years ran a private dating club for young Jewish people.

In addition to CJC, the sponsors are the Board of Jewish Ministers of Greater Montreal and Synagogue Council of Greater Montreal and funding has also been provided by the Jewish Community Foundation.

Here is how JIS will work:

Leaflets containing information on JIS are now being distributed at community institutions. An advertising campaign is also being launched. A reply card in the leaflets and ads may be mailed in with a non-refundable registration fee of $10.

From there the applicant will enter into a series of correspondence in which he or she will be sent first an enrolment form asking basic information about the applicant; then a more in-depth biographical and attitudinal questionnaire on subject related to values and interests in life; and, finally, another questionnaire which is designed to analyze the psychological makeup of the person.

The total cost to enroll is $300 (which may be adjusted according to income), paid at a rate of $100 for each test completed. The person's name will remain in JIS's files for two years, or until a satisfactory match is made.

There is no limit to the number of introductions that may be made in that period.

No firm policy has been adopted at this stage about refunds in the event that no matches can be made. Early applicants are warned to be patient; JIS will have to build up its files — perhaps to 300 — before it will start making matches.

A selection committee, composed of at least three persons in such professions as psychology, social work, sociology, medicine, law, education and theology, who remain anonymous, will make the matches by going through the file of applicants. When two compatible people are found, their names and phone numbers will be sent to each other by JIS.

It's up to the two people then to make the first move. They will each also be asked to let JIS know whether or not they are satisfied with their match (and, of course, if they got married.) Their names will be taken out of the file until word is heard from them.

JIS is a national program; applicants are welcome from across Canada, and the service will also be advertised in the United States. One of the basic questions asked of applicants is what distance he or she is willing to travel to meet someone.

Finestone stressed the confidentiality of the service. Applicants do not have to have a personal interview, although they may if they so wish. JIS has a part-time coordinator, Ter-

[Cont'd on page 7]

Thesis recounts lost culture

By
RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

Some weeks ago, a Toronto gentleman called me and said that he had received a highly interesting booklet which dealt with the fate of one of the oldest Jewish communities in Europe. It was a study compiled by a Markus Wild, one of whose grandparents was a Jew. But he and his whole family had been raised as Christians, and were not touched by the Nazi racist laws.

Rabbi Plaut

Last year, when it came to high school graduation, Markus Wild chose as his topic a thesis on the history of the now non-existent Jewish community. The result was a remarkably scholarly study of 125 pages, which included records and photostats as well as a series of interviews with survivors of the Nazi era, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The study is not only thorough, it is also objective and written with great sensitivity for the feelings of human beings in their time. The author is presently an archeology student at the University of Bonn.

The community he writes about is his own, a small town called Montabaur, which is located in the Rhine-Moselle area, a picturesque reminder of Roman days nearly 2,000 years ago. The Jewish community celebrated its 1,000th anniversary in 1930 — a happy event which gave no foretaste of what was to happen only a few years afterwards.

A Jewish survivor wrote to Mr. Wild about the town and the ultimate fate of the Jews: "In the 1930s Montabaur was a little market place of about 5,000 inhabitants, of whom 50 were Jews. They had lived there for generations and had completely integrated in the community.

"My family lived there since the 17th century. My earliest memory of the Nazis was the beginning of 1933: men in brown uniforms and sticks ran after some workers in the street. I was told that they were trying to arrest some Communists.

"In the beginning, Jews suffered relatively minor attacks — threats, intimidations and defacing inscriptions on Jewish buildings were part of it. It took five years to indoctrinate the population with a thorough degree of aggressive anti-semitism.

"Emigration began in 1933 with those who had some foresight and those who had money; the middle class and the academics followed them. After 1938, only the poor ones, the old folks, the sick and those who did not want to forsake their families were left and they eventually ended in Auschwitz.

"As a result of anti-semitic indoctrination, the Jewish population of Montabaur became isolated from the other inhabitants. People who all their lives had been friends, men who had fought together in the war, suddenly no longer would speak to each other, even the best of friends would meet only at night. Obviously, aside from all else, this reduced the ability of the Jewish population to make a living to point zero."

The writer then recounts some of the events of Crystal Night, November 9/10, 1938. "The synagogue was destroyed, all Jews were dragged to the marketplace, some — like an old woman who could not walk — by their hair. The whole population, so it seemed, was assembled. People who for centuries had lived peaceably with Jews now yelled 'Juden raus.' And the worst was that even children beat the helpless prisoners.

"Yet I also knew entirely different kinds of Montabaur inhabitants whom I must acknowledge as highly moral, humane and brave. For instance, the family Iselbaecher was hidden away until the pogram had ended. This was highly risky for the protectors, but it made it possible for the family to migrate from Germany and build a new existence in America. Other citizens helped Jews by giving them advance information of Nazi plans."

Nothing of the above will be new to the readers of this column, except perhaps the knowledge that in 1984 in a small town in Germany, a high school student made the history of a vanished Jewish community the subject of his graduation thesis. Here is a young man who wanted to know and who by his effort, no doubt, has drawn others into the circle of his concern and compassion.

Israel to apply needed pressure

Congress may query aid increases

By
WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON —

Israeli officials and American Jewish lobbyists agree that they face a formidable challenge next year merely convincing Congress to approve whatever economic and military aid levels are proposed for Israel by President Ronald Reagan.

There will be unusually strong pressure to reduce the program during the lengthy legislative review process. Increasing the aid levels — an almost automatic occurrence in years past — is going to be more difficult than ever given the mounting desire on Capitol Hill to cut the federal budget across the board, including in all sorts of significant social and defense programs.

That's why the current high-level economic discussions between the Reagan administration and the Israeli government are seen as so crucial. Israeli officials recognize that they no longer have the luxury of simply assuming that a friendly Congress is going to improve the Administration's package.

Clearly, they want the administration to come to Congress with as generous a recommendation as possible and then to fight hard to win its full acceptance.

Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz are waiting until virtually the last minute before deciding how much economic and military assistance to propose for Israel in the 1986 fiscal year budget.

The secretary, for example, made clear to visiting Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during a meeting in New York on Dec. 9 that the U.S. was still basically unimpressed by Israel's proposed "structural" changes in its economy. The Israeli government is moving too slowly and cautiously, according to U.S. governmental experts.

The Americans, moreover, are waiting to see how much of the budget cuts announced in Jerusalem are actually implemented.

The scope of the record Israeli aid request has been widely publicized. Israel is seeking $2.2 billion in military grants — as opposed to the $1.4 billion level approved in the 1985 fiscal year appropriation. The administration is expected to split the difference, probably accepting between $1.8 billion to $1.9 billion.

The Israeli economic request also represents a hefty increase — from the $1.2 billion approved in the last budget to nearly $2 billion. In addition, Israel is seeking an extra $750 million in economic grants as part of an emergency supplemental program attached to the already-passed 1985 legislation.

The total Israeli request, therefore, comes to almost $5 billion.

The administration, U.S. officials said, is unlikely to come even close to meeting such a large Israeli request, although some modest increase is expected. The question of a 1985 supplemental package is still up in the air.

For the time being, the administration has not even hinted at linking any increase in foreign aid to Israel to a widely anticipated new U.S. arms sale to several "more moderate" Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, probably Jordan, and certainly Egypt.

In the past, various administrations have dangled some increased U.S. assistance in front of Israel officials in attempting to win a more "understanding" Israeli position on the Arab arms sales. The U.S. hope had been that Israel then would quietly ease the concerns of its supporters in Congress and the American Jewish community.

Israeli officials have already pointed to these likely sales as further justification for their own increased financial needs from the U.S. Israel somehow has to maintain its "qualitative edge" — something the administration repeatedly says it supports but which is becoming increasingly more difficult and expensive in the face of massive sales to the Arabs from the Soviet Union, Western Europe and even the U.S. itself.

There is deep concern in Washington over the future of the Israeli economy. U.S. officials recognize that a militarily powerful and economically viable Israel represents a strategic advantage for the U.S. — and indeed the entire West. Thus, the U.S. is clearly prepared to help Israel, but only after additional painful steps are taken in Jerusalem to turn the economic picture around.

"The economic crisis gripping Israel today, if not swiftly and effectively addressed by the new unity government, could pose as serious a threat to the security of the state of Israel as any hostile neighbor in the region," a recently released Senate foreign relations committee staff report concluded (CJN Nov. 29).

The 66-page committee report is expected to be a major source of information for members of the panel, including its new chairman, Republican Richard Lugar of Indiana, when they consider the new foreign aid bill early next year.

Lugar has refused to commit himself to aid increases for Israel, insisting only that he must first study the question more seriously.

Reflecting the prevailing attitude of Shultz and other senior administration economists, the foreign relations committee report noted that Israel's economic problems are "fundamentally structural and political" in nature.

"The current problems are rooted in an elaborate system of price and wage indexation, a set of policies that rapidly expanded the capital base but also resulted in rapid inflation, swollen budgets, an overvalued currency, and a two-year drop in exports.

"Paradoxically, the vigor of Israel's democratic system of political proportional representation has hindered efforts to institute economic measures by splintering political parties and constituencies and preventing a strong consensus for actually implementing economic reforms."

There is no doubt that Israel, especially since the 1973 war, has become very dependent on U.S. governmental, American Jewish and other forms of foreign assistance. This was underscored in dramatic terms in the Senate report.

Last year, it noted that Israel received some $2.6 billion in U.S. governmental economic and military assistance; another $1 billion was provided by the United Jewish Appeal and the many other Israeli charities operating in the United States; more than $400 million in the sale of Israel Bonds; and $384 million in West German war reparations payments.

"These capital flows have provided a useful cushion for the Israeli economy, without which a credit crunch might well have occurred. Even with this assistance, however, Israel faces grave difficulties and tough decisions," the report states.

What exactly do Shultz and his advisors, therefore, have in mind when they call for structural changes in the Israeli economy?

What administration policymakers would like to see includes:

- Seriously reducing or even eliminating indexation all together.
- Drastically reducing the printing of shekels. Indexation in Israel, the Senate report pointed out, contains a built-in mechanism for accelerating inflation because the Central Bank is required by law to print money to cover the government's budget deficits. U.S. officials would like to see that law changed.
- Decreasing public consumption, including considerably deeper budget cuts, in order to shift resources into more productive sectors of the economy.

U.S. government cutbacks have unequal effects

By
RICHARD COHEN

WASHINGTON —

There comes a time in everyone's childhood when you realize how the world really works. This happens when you're about to be punished and a parent says, "This hurts me more than it hurts you." Nothing is quite the same after that.

Now we have the latest variations on this theme and it comes from the Reagan administration. After the President proposed a 5% pay reduction for all federal workers, the cabinet agreed to go even further: It would take a 10% cut. Talk about hurt!

Not to be outdone in the sacrifice department, House Minority Leader Bob Michel and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said the idea was so wonderful it ought to be extended to Congress. And then President Reagan, Andy Hardyishly, suggested an even better idea. He, too, would take a pay cut. Golly! There goes New Year's Eve in Palm Springs.

This means that among those who will now join janitors and secretaries, clerks and drivers in the ranks of the suffering, will be Donald Regan, the former chairman of Merrill-Lynch, Cap Weinberger and George Shultz, both former Bechtel executives, and, of course, George Bush, who during the campaign forgot that his father was a millionaire and declared himself a self-made man.

The list of the new poor will include numerous millionaires in Congress, most of whom will have no compunction against imposing the new austerity ethic on their less wealthy colleagues. The latter will, of course, suffer silently. In Washington, hypocrisy is just another name for the sword: You live by it; you can die by it.

Even for politicians at budget time, the Dole-Michel-Reagan pay cut proposal is epic political nonsense. It's symbolic of how showmanship and symbolism now pass for substance in Washington. The idea is to appear fair, as if fairness means treating rich and poor the same. When you compare the wealth of a man like Donald Regan with that of a clerk who's supporting a family on a civil-servant paycheck, the point becomes pretty obvious. But take a look at the rest of what the President is proposing — the budget freeze. This, too, is unfairness disguised as fairness.

The idea of an across-the-board budget freeze is to create something like a fiscal Battle-of-Britain atmosphere: We are all in this together and who knows where the bombs will land. But we know precisely where the bombs will land. They will land on the food stamp program, Head Start, low-income fuel aid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, rent subsidies, child-nutrition programs, black-lung benefits and scores of other programs whose recipients are the poor or the handicapped.

The President's budget proposal, though, has no bombs targeted at most of the middle class nor any of the rich. To save them a tax increase (and to satisfy an ideological computation to trash the federal government), programs are either being cut or frozen or, in some cases, eliminated.

Among them are some that ought to be junked and others that should be reduced. But to suggest that it is fair to take the good and the bad, the essential and the frivolous, and cut them all is both ridiculous and an abdication of responsibility. It's the President's job to decide what's worth keeping and what's not and to find ways to pay for what's important.

Of course, in one area the President has done just that. The defence budget, as bloated as it is, has so far escaped the knife — even analysis. In the end, Congress will have to cut it too. But in the meantime the President's reluctance to recommend cuts in defence says a lot. For him there are two budgets — one for defence, which is sacred, and one for the rest of the federal government, which is all junk. Do with the junk what you will — and don't bother him with the details.

The sort of fairness the Reagan administration proposes with its budget freeze and pay reduction proposals is precisely what Anatole France had in mind when he said, "The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under the bridges, to beg in the streets and to steal bread." Oh, Anatole, you've never been to Washington. In the name of fairness, the bridge program was cut.

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Hadassah-WIZO president completes tour of Spain

Peters applauds Israel's aid to Ethiopian Jews

By
SHEILA DROPKIN

TORONTO —

Cecily Peters, national president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, feels very strongly that Israel is doing everything possible to help free the Jews of Ethiopia and that those who speak against Israel in this regard are doing a great deal of harm.

Interviewed in her Toronto office two days after her recent return from her organization's "heritage tour" to Spain and Israel, Mrs. Peters was moved to denounce the detractors in no uncertain terms.

"Marxist Ethiopia is decidedly anti-Israel and so is the Sudan, where the refugee camps are located," she explained. "It is very difficult for Israel to work directly and openly with these two countries to get the Jews to safety. Everything must be done through intermediaries, like the International Red Cross, which bring the refugees to other countries such as France before they can be transported to Israel."

Thirty Ethiopian children arrived in Israel while the group was there.

One of the highlights of the trip, which was taken by 73 people from across Canada, was a visit to Hofim/Acco the Youth Aliyah children's village supported by Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, which is now the primary absorption centre for Ethiopian children who arrive in Israel without parents.

Over 200 children have been admitted to Hofim since the centre opened in July. Rabbi Nachum Cohen, the principal, introduced the Canadians to his charges, seven of whom were sitting shiva for parents who died while trying to escape.

Astrid Mizrahi, left, president of the WIZO Organization of Spain, listens as Cecily Peters, national president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, presents a talk on the activities of Canadian women on behalf of Israel.

Peters said most of the children suffer from severe emotional traumas, caused by their mistreatment while trying to escape. They are fearful of getting ill and dying like so many of their friends and family did. Each morning there are long lineups at the infirmary, often for minor complaints.

Many of the children arrived severely malnourished and near death; others arrived in the middle of the night, with few clothes and no shoes. They have difficulty talking about their experiences and are urged to write down their stories. The results are heartbreaking to read.

Not all Ethiopian Jews are residents of shanty towns in the hills. Some are affluent and well-educated. One youngster, formerly from Addis Ababa and fluent in English, asked where "all the savages" were from when he first met the other children at the centre.

Because of their physical and emotional instability as well as illiteracy of so many of these refugees, their care costs 30% more than that of other children cared for by Youth Aliyah schools and centres.

The children entertained their Canadian visitors with songs in Hebrew and Amharic, their native tongue, and were delighted by the Canadian T-shirts given to them, as well as by the Polaroid cameras used by several of the tourists.

As a parting gift, one of the children gave Peters a painting of a synagogue in Ethiopia. It will adorn the Hadassah-WIZO national office in Montreal.

The Canadian visitors also attended the dedication of the Jenny Lohn pediatric department of Asof Harofe Hospital, named for the late Jenny Lohn of Vancouver who made a major donation for the purpose shortly before her death from cancer.

Group visited Hadassim

They were given updates on Israel by Yitzhak Modai, finance minister, who painted a gloomy picture of his country's financial plight; minister-without-portfolio Ezer Weizman; Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek; and officers of the Israel Defence Forces on current conditions in Lebanon.

The group also visited Hadassim, another Canadian-sponsored school with an enrolment of over 1,000 students from many different countries, and were taken on an historical and biblical tour of Judaea and Samaria by a resident of one of the West Bank settlements.

In Madrid the Canadians were guests of WIZO of Spain and attended Sabbath services at Beth Yaacov Synagogue, opened in 1967, the first new Spanish Jewish house of worship since 1492.

There are now 3,000 Jews in Madrid, most of them are originally from North Africa. The ancient Spanish Jewish community was killed, exiled or converted during the 13th and 14th centuries.

"We went back to the golden age of Spanish Jewry of the 12th century," Peters said, "and we saw Spain through the eyes of our colleagues there. Astrid Mizrahi, the president of Spanish WIZO, was our hostess. We also met other prominent members of the community, including Samuel Toledano, who has been traveling around the world, trying to encourage other Jews to visit Spain."

The Canadians also spent a day in Toledo, once considered "the Jerusalem of Spain," with its Jewish community of 12,000 people and 14 synagogues. Now there are no synagogues and the city's lone Jewish resident who runs the Mount Sinai Restaurant there, is actually a commuter from Madrid. Two of the ancient synagogues, which had been converted into churches, are now museums.

Enjoyed visit to Spain

"We believe it's a great idea to visit WIZO colleagues in other countries and to learn their past and current histories directly from them," Peters said. "We thoroughly enjoyed our three days in Spain and we hope to take future trips to other countries."

Participants in the trip included Hadassah-WIZO members, their husbands and their children from Lethbridge, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Calgary, Windsor, Peterborough, Cape Breton and Vancouver. Judy Mandleman of Vancouver, an honorary national vice-president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, was tour coordinator.

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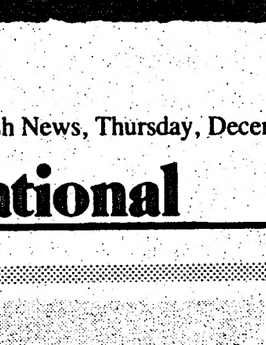
Living Halacha

By
RABBI MOSES J. BURAK

QUESTION: Have we the right to pray for miracles?

As you know, on Chanukah and Purim we give thanks to the Almighty for the miracles with which He delivered us from our enemies. The prayer is known as 'al hanissim.



Rabbi Burak

Suppose one forgot — and people do forget — to say this prayer. What should one do? This question is answered in two places in our laws. Early in the Code, we find it in the Shulchan 'Aruch, in the laws of Birkat Hamazon, Chapter 187:4. If you completed the benshen, and then it dawned on you that you had forgotten this special prayer, you don't have to repeat the benshen.

But, if you are close to the end when you realize that you have overlooked this special prayer, then add it to the harachamans, and say: "May the All Merciful One do miracles for us even as He did in those days in this season" and continue with the 'al hanissim. In the famous Rabbi Yaakov Emden siddur the instructions for the grace after meals are more specific: "When you reach the words 'May the All Merciful One make worthy of the coming of the Messiah . . .' say, 'May the All Merciful One grant us miracles . . .' "

In our Code, in the Laws of Chanukah, Chapter 684:1, you have a repetition of this subject, and are advised to insert the prayer you forgot to say, among the harachamans.

From all this it seems quite clear that one is permitted to ask for miracles. The principle that "one may not expect a miracle" means that you may not enter into an unusually difficult situation and expect that the Almighty will extricate you through a miracle. But, you are permitted to pray for the miraculous redemption of the Jewish people.

Foolish to object

The prayer, 'al hanissim, is said in the 'amidah following nodim. Some of the oldest authorities wanted the prayer to end with the words, "Even as Thou didst do miracles for them, so, Hashem do for us." This is based on the text of Tractate Soferim, Chapter 20:7. It was accepted by Rav Saadia Gaon z.l. in his siddur, by Rav Amram Gaon z.l. and by the Rambam z.l.

Despite this, Rav Hai Gaon z.l. would not agree to include this line. Said he: "It is not the custom of the rabbis of the yeshiva to add these lines."

Why not? What's wrong with it? Why should a text that is found in Tractate Soferim not meet with universal approval? Some scholars held that this prayer did not agree with an established law regarding what we may pray for and when "one does not ask for one's personal needs in the first three benedictions of the 'amidah and not in the last three." At the start and at the finish of the 'amidah one should speak only for the greatness of our Creator.

But, Tosfos, in Tractate Megillah, 4A, says that it is foolish to object on these grounds to this prayer. You may not ask for favors for yourself in the first three and last three benedictions of the 'amidah. But, you may certainly ask for blessings for your people — as much as you care to.

There is solid reasoning behind this. The great chassidic masters explained it with a story. A man who dreamed that his only son would be a Torah scholar was sorely disappointed. His son had other thoughts. He liked soccer, and did poorly in his Torah studies. The father threatened the boy, and told him that he would not get a new suit and new shoes for Passover unless his record improved. The boy did not improve, so the father made good his threat. And the lad went to shul in his old clothes when all the other boys had their finery on.

When they sat down at table, and papa wanted to know how his son felt, the lad said: "Father, this will hurt you more than me. I heard some of your business associates saying that you must be going bankrupt if you dressed me so poorly. They decided they would not extend you any more credit. Neither will they sign for you at the bank, anymore."

When the rebbe concluded this story, he cried out: "Ribbono shel 'olam. If we remain in this misery, it will reflect on You. The enemy will say that You are helpless. So, help us now."

Fighter for women's rights

Honors flow to Winnipeg's Shack

By
MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG —

For Sybil Shack, Winnipeg educator, author, journalist, media personality, feminist and human rights activist, 1984 has been a banner year in terms of honors bestowed.

Most recently, in October, Shack, 73, was one of five Canadian women given the Persons Award in Ottawa for their contributions to improving the status of women in this country. The award has been given annually to five recipients since 1979 — the 50th anniversary of a case brought by five Alberta women to the British Privy Council seeking to have Canadian women recognized as persons in law, thereby making women eligible for the Canadian Senate.

Sybil Shack has a history of going where no woman has ever gone before.

A high school graduate at 14, she originally was interested in law or journalism. But that was the time of the Depression. You had to have a job. Women did not become lawyers, and there was no money in writing part-time for the Western Jewish News, as she was doing. So Shack became an elementary school teacher.

Sybil Shack wins Persons Award

"Although I had no burning desire to teach," she said, "I have the happy capacity to become interested in whatever I have to do," she said.

After a couple of years teaching in the country, Shack was hired by the Winnipeg School Division #1. "I really wanted to teach high school," she said, "but you needed your degree, and only men got degrees at that time. Women were elementary teachers."

Shack began taking graduate courses. "There were only two or three other women at the graduate level," she said.

She received her BEd. in 1945, and her Masters in 1946.

"That is when I became a strong feminist," she said. "I wanted to test my thesis, on teaching junior high Latin, in the schools. My superintendent gave me permission, but not before making a chauvinist remark or two."

Her work on her Doctorate through the University of Toronto was cut short by her growing involvement in the Manitoba Teachers Society. During the 1950s she served on a variety of executive committees, before becoming president of the organization for the 1960-61 term.

As a teacher, she finally reached the high school level in the 1940s, only to be asked to become an elementary school principal in 1948. It wasn't until the twilight of her career, in the mid-70s, that she was given the first junior, then a senior high principalship.

Throughout her teaching career, she continued her writing. She wrote weekly editorials for the Western Jewish News from 1944-57. In 1956, she was approached by the Macmillan Co. to join a panel of six writing spelling textbooks. "I was the only Westerner," she said. "It was the only writing at which I made money. I worked on those spelling texts until the 70s when Gage bought out Macmillan."

In 1965, she was asked by the Guidance Centre of the University of Toronto's College of Education to write a book on women in education. The result was The Two-Thirds Minority (1973). "Sixty percent of teachers are women," she said, "but they earn only two-thirds of what male teachers earn, and hold only 10% of the top positions."

This was followed by Saturday's Stepchildren (1977), a look at women in the business world.

Sybil Shack may be retired from teaching . . . but she hasn't retired. She continues to be involved in a variety of human rights and community service organizations, including some new interests.

She remains in demand on radio and television, as a speaker across the country, and she has received numerous awards during the past few years.

France's foreign minister called staunchly pro-Arab

By
EDWIN EYTAN

PARIS (JTA) —

France's new foreign minister, Roland Dumas, was described as a staunch and loyal pro-Arab by the French daily Le Monde, which recalled that in past years he had intervened on behalf of Palestinian terrorists.

Dumas, 64, was named foreign minister by President Francois Mitterrand, replacing Claude Cheysson, who is leaving the government. He is an attorney and former newspaper journalist and is considered a close personal friend of Mitterrand.

His appointment coincided with the visit here last week of Israel Premier Shimon Peres, which was hailed by both French and Israeli officials as a renewal of warm and friendly relations between the two countries for the first time in the 20 years since the presidency of Charles deGaulle (CJN Dec. 13).

Dumas, as foreign minister-designate, attended almost all of the official functions held in honor of the visiting Israeli leader. He was present at the state banquet for Peres at the Quai D'Orsay — the foreign ministry, at Mitterrand's luncheon with Peres at the Elysee Palace and at the diplomatic reception hosted by Peres at the Israeli embassy here.

Peres, responding to reporters' questions at the time, expressing hope that Dumas "will carry out the President's policy." Sources here observed that with a close friend in charge of the foreign ministry, Mitterrand will act as his own foreign minister, meaning that he will establish French foreign policy and see that it is executed.

Mitterrand's sincere friendship toward Israel, expressed during Peres' 3-day visit and on many other occasions, is not in question. But Dumas' past record, according to Le Monde, which supports Mitterand's Socialist administration, is a different matter.

In 1974, an editorial appeared in a newspaper, founded and edited by Dumas, defending the hijacking of commercial airlines as "the only means the Palestinians have to break through world indifference to their cause."

Dumas served as attorney for the terrorist, Abu Daoud, after French police arrested him at Israel's request. Israel was seeking his extradition for allegedly masterminding the 1972 Munich massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes.

Dumas was sent to Israel at the request of pro-Palestinian groups to defend Msgr. Hilarion Capucci, the Catholic archbishop of Jerusalem who was on trial for smuggling weapons to Palestinian terrorists. He also had close professional ties with Libya and served on several occasions as counsel for the Libyan government, Le Monde said.

Two prominent French Jews figured in Mitterrand's cabinet reshuffle. Jack Lang, the minister for cultural affairs, was given full ministerial rank and a seat in the "inner cabinet."

Another Jew, Gilbert Trigano, was named a "government delegate" in charge of new training methods to help fight unemployment. Trigano, 63, is president and co-founder of Club Mediterranee, an international travel organization with hotels and resort complexes in 40 countries.

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CALGARY HEBREW SCHOOL

U.S. Congress asked to press UN

Withdrawal of Zionism-racism charge sought

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

WASHINGTON —

The U.S. Congress has been asked to urge the United Nations to withdraw the Zionism is Racism resolution passed by the General Assembly 10 years ago. The request was made by a seminar on the infamous resolution held recently at the state department under the auspices of three major Jewish organizations.

With some 400 representatives of many of America's Jewish organizations approving, the seminar recommended to American legislators that they urge the UN to withdraw the resolution that threatened "directly the integrity of legitimacy" of Israel and spreads hatred against the Jewish people. Intensive education of Americans to the meaning and purpose of the resolution was also advocated. The Soviet Union was identified by leading speakers as having originated and fostered the measure.

Among the speakers were Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. ambassador to the UN; Senator Daniel Moynihan who was the ambassador at the UN when the resolution was adopted 72 to 35 with 32 abstentions; Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for human rights and Israel's ambassador in Washinton, Meir Rosenne.

The seminar was sponsored jointly by B'nai B'rith International, the World Jewish Congress and the World Zionist Organization. Entitled Zionism Equals Racism — An Assault on Human Rights, the seminar was held on the 36th anniversary of the United Nations Human Rights Day.

Copies of a draft resolution expressing the "sense of Congress" that the UN action "constituted one of the darkest moments" in its history were sent to the Democratic and Republican leaders in the House and Senate for their consideration.

The draft says the U.S. considers the UN resolution to be "a permanent smear" on the UN reputation and "totally inconsistent with its fundamental purposes and principles;" that "the U.S. will forever disregard that UN resolution;" that the U.S. will withhold its support from UN organizations that base their activities on it, and that the Congress calls upon the UN General Assembly to repeal "that pernicious resolution."

Kirkpatrick termed the UN resolution as "a lie" that "has already spread far. That lie can only be eliminated; it cannot be corrected because it is not a matter of fact."

Noting that "its consequences are deadly for all of us and to all institutions through which we try to make peace," she said "the moral and political responsibility of all of us is not to ignore it but show how immoral and obscene it is."

Rosenne said the Zionism-racism resolution and others adopted by various UN organs have been "translated and disseminated in the millions throughout the world" to "thousands of universities, libraries, schools, churches and other such institutions and even insinuated into textbooks" used in schools, "poisoning receptive young minds... New generations the world over are being educated on the basis of such texts."

The Israeli ambassador added: "We must begin an educational and political campaign to counter (the resolution's) effects.

Moynihan pointed out that "the roots of the Zionism-racism charge" have been traced "to the Soviet practice of seeking to discredit ethnic assertiveness in the vast Russian empire that is the USSR."

Elliott Abrams, assisant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, charged that the gradual impact of the UN resolution was responsible for the analogies with the Nazis used in the world press in describing Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Abrams declared that "the impact of the Zionism as Racism resolution has been enormous, and that, by serving to legitimize anti-semitism, it continues to pose a major threat to the survival of Israel and the Jewish people."

Orthodox leader calls for unity

BALTIMORE —

Sidney Kwestel, newly elected president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, said in his inaugural speech that it is his goal to unite the Orthodox community, and as a first step, urged the union to move toward a consolidation with the National Council of Young Israel.

Sidney Kwestel

Kwestel, of Forest Hills, NY, was chosen at the union's recent 86th biennial national convention here. He is a professor of law at Touro Law School in Huntington, NY. He succeeds Julius Berman who served as the union's president for the past six years.

In calling for union with the National Council of Young Israel (coordinating body of all Young Israel Synagogues), Kwestel stated, "The time has come when we must take the lead to maximize the financial and human resources of the Torah community."

"In addition," he continued, "I plan to act as the catalyst to establish national and regional commissions on legislation with other Orthodox organizations so that a united position can be presented in support of legislation on the national and local levels."

These commissions, under the guidance of the Commission on Law and Public Affairs, the legal arm of Orthodox Jewry, will press for legislation beneficial to the Jewish community in general and the Orthodox community in particular, Kwestel said.

Over 1,200 delegates and observers representing the union's congregations across North America attended plenary sessions, lectures and workshops centred on the theme Othodoxy in a Pluralistic Society: Impact on the Family and Synagogue.

Aussie foreign policy changes feared in Jewish community

MELBOURNE (JTA) —

Labor Party leader Bob Hawke's new government, sworn into office recently, has raised some concern in the Jewish community that changes in Australia's Middle East policy may be in the offing.

Although Hawke's pro-Israel sympathies remain strong, some Jews fear that Australia's newly acquired membership in the United Nations Security Council might lead to efforts by the foreign ministry to placate the Third World governments which voted for Australia's admission.

That would mean, they say, that on critical votes affecting Israel, Australia might abstain rather than vote with the United States which is almost always supportive of the Israeli position.

Another issue that may arise during the Labor government's second term in office is the future of the Australian contingent of the multinational peacekeeping force in Sinai.

Israel, Egypt and the U.S. have tried to persuade Australia not to set any definite date for withdrawal.

The troop commitment will be reviewed by the new defence minister, Kim Beazley, who may recommend that the Australian unit remain in Sinai because it is gaining valuable experience.

These were some of the issues discussed at the annual conference last week of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), the umbrella body of the Jewish community.

The Israeli ambassador, Yissachar Ben-Yaacov, addressed the conference. He spoke of Israel's future relations with the United States, the current negotiations for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon and Israel's economic problems.

Hawke's Labor Party was returned to office for a second term in the national elections Dec. 1, but with a decreased majority rather than the forecast landslide victory. Its only Jewish member, Minister for the Arts and Environment, Barry Cohen, was absent from the swearing-in ceremonies in Canberra because of illness. He is expected to resume his duties after a vacation.

Force review planned

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said earlier this year that the Australian forces, which consist of a helicopter survey unit and a backup team, would be permanently withdrawn early in 1986.

U.S. Jewish leaders condemn South Africa

NEW YORK (JTA) —

On the eve of Chanukah, national Jewish religious leaders sharply condemned South Africa's apartheid policies and urged that the Black citizens of that nation be granted equal opportunities for employment, education, housing and voting rights.

"As we begin the celebration of our 8-day Festival of Lights, it is appropriate that we call attention to one of the most flagrant deprivations of human and civil rights," asserted Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, president of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA).

The statement was signed by the SCA's six member organizations representing the congregational and rabbinic groups of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism serving 4 million congregational members.

Waxman noted that some rabbis, as individuals, had participated in demonstrations protesting South African policies and that during the next few weeks large numbers of his colleagues would speak out on the issue from the pulpit in sermons and hold educational forums in their synagogues.

The SCA statement said: "Repression, violence and loss of life in South Africa continue to dramatize the injustice of white supremacy rule in that country. The degrading and dehumanizing policy of apartheid denies the Black people of South Africa basic human rights and deprives them of almost every opportunity for living with dignity.

"If South Africa is to be a responsible and respected member of the family of nations, it must fulfil the moral mandate of providing for all its citizens — equal opportunities in education, employment, housing and representation in the country's electoral process.

"We urge the American government to continue its current initiatives and utilize all appropriate actions at its disposal to impress upon the government of South Africa, our repugnance of these racial policies.

"Furthermore, the Synagogue Council calls upon the rabbis and congregational leaders of the American Jewish community to speak out in clear and unequivocal terms against South Africa's discriminatory practices."

The Work of Chesed L'Avrohom

The True Meaning Of Success

A group of school boys under the care of Chesed L'Avrohom.

Some people measure success in terms of material things. To them, fancy drapes and carpets, an elegant new car and a trip to the sun distinguish those who have "made it" from those who have not.

But to the Jewish soul, "making it" can be viewed only in the dimension of the spiritual. A Jew is measured in terms of his spiritual growth — and in terms of how much his personal development is utilized to help others.

Within this framework the Skulener Rebbe, Rabbi Yisroel Avrohom Portula, shlita, is one of the world's most successful men. Continuing the sacred work started by his father, ZT"L, before World War Two, the Skulener Rebbe, shlita, through his personal greatness, has literally and figuratively saved innumerable lives.

The previous Rebbe, ZT"L, saved thousands from the gas chambers. He took upon himself the support of hundreds of orphans, bringing them into his house and rearing them as his own. After the Holocaust he established himself in Brooklyn, from where he directed his rescue efforts towards Jews suffering behind the Iron Curtain and in Arab countries as well as towards those of our brethren estranged from their heritage in Eretz Yisroel. He named his efforts Chesed L'Avrohom (the kindness of Abraham).

The present Rebbe, shlita, carries on these endeavours with tremendous success. Once they have arrived in Israel, multitudes of Jews from Russia and Arab lands come under the loving wing of the Rebbe, shlita. He undertakes the support of entire families until they become self-sufficient. He takes the boys and girls into his schools and gives them the tools they need to make a real success of their lives — knowledge and understanding.

The Rebbe, shlita, makes sure that these young people did not leave lands of virtual captivity only, G-d forbid, to fall away from the observances of their fathers in freedom. The schools he has established, the day care centres and the afternoon programs he has set up all provide the child with a true understanding of what it means to be a Jew — and how a Jew must live.

In addition to helping newcomers to Israel, Chesed L'Avrohom spares no effort in helping young people from broken homes and those who have had problems with drugs or run-ins with the law. These young people, the Rebbe feels, are especially vulnerable, and Chesed L'Avrohom goes to tremendous lengths to see to it that they get the love and support they need to overcome their problems.

Right now Chesed L'Avrohom's facilities are strained to the limit. New school and dormitory facilities are urgently needed for boys and girls of twelve and up. Apartments must be rented for newcomers. Food must be provided not only for children, but for entire families who are hungry.

And, of course, Torah must be taught, for "It is a tree of life to those who take hold of it." We want our children to live — to live as Jews. The Rebbe strives day and night towards this end. The financial burdens he faces every day are overwhelming. He cannot accomplish everything on his own; your help is urgently needed so that true success can be the lot of those who need it so desperately.

Please send your generous cheque to Chesed L'Avrohom, c/o 81 Bannockburn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5M 2M9. Tax-deductible receipts will be issued.

Rousing applause in National Assembly

Quebec legislators provide Eliyahu full honors

By
JANICE ARNOLD

QUEBEC CITY — The Quebec government treated the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, Mordechai Eliyahu, to all the honors of a visiting dignitary last week. The Israeli Star of David flew atop the National Assembly to mark the Rishon Letzion's day of touring the provincial capital.

Eliyahu and Rabbi David Shlush, the Chief Rabbi of Netanya, and Rabbi David Sabbah, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Montreal, were guests in the VIP gallery of the National Assembly.

There was a moment of peace during a particularly raucous question period when Speaker Richard Guay recognized the presence of "his eminence, the Chief Rabbi of Israel" and Eliyahu was given a rousing round of applause.

Unfortunately, Premier Rene Levesque was not able to attend a champagne reception later in the day with Eliyahu because of illness. Justice Minister, Pierre Marc Johnson, substituted for Levesque.

Johnson delivered the Premier's message which noted that the Jewish community has been present in Quebec for more than two centuries and that Quebec is "a land of welcome for men and women anywhere in the world who share your faith."

He made mention of the inauguration of the Centre Sepharade Rabbinique Maghen David in Montreal as evidence of the community's determination to pursue its millenia-old traditions here.

For his own part, Johnson — speaking through Israeli consul-general Yakov Aviad who acted as interpreter — noted that the Quebec government recognized the importance of Jewish education and supports it financially. He said Quebec has learned from the Jews the importance of education in the survival of a people and has stressed knowledge of one's heritage in Quebec.

He expressed confidence that the Sephardic community will continue to flourish in Quebec, noting that it has already established its own religious, educational and cultural institutions.

In a reference to Eliyahu's reputation as a man of great intellect and spirituality, Johnson joked that he knew there was at least one wise man in the National Assembly that day.

Eliyahu responded that he was enchanted by the warmth and hospitality he has received in Canada. He said he was impressed with "the spirit of tolerance" and the "harmonious relations" Jewish institutions have with government here. He also said that "a people who are proud of their past have nothing to fear from the future."

The Chief Rabbi then blessed all the people of Quebec and wished Levesque good health.

Present at the reception, in addition to the delegation from the Rabbinat Sepharade du Quebec which numbered about 40, were Bernard Finestone, chairman of Canadian Jewish Congress Quebec Region, and other representatives of CJC; Moe Rosenhek, president of Quebec City's Congregation Beth Israel Ohev Shalom, its cultural centre chairman Ena Robinson and the rabbi, Samuel Prager; Victor Teboul, director of the Quebec office of the Canada-Israel Committee; and members of the National Assembly Herbert Marx and Harry Blank.

Yves Martin, deputy minister of international relations, hosted a salmon crepe and roast beef luncheon in the historic Maison Gabriel-Gosselin in Quebec's Lower Town in honor of Eliyahu. Kosher food was brought in from Montreal but Eliyahu, a vegetarian, ate only sparingly.

Martin said Quebec wishes in the coming year to expand its relations with Israel, not only in the cultural and social domains, but in trade as well.

He also spoke of the significant addition the Sephardic community has been to Quebec.

Sabbah expressed the community's appreciation of the enthusiasm with which the Sephardim have been accepted in Quebec. He said he hoped that there will be more frequent "people-to-people" contacts between Quebec and Israel in the future. Special guest at the luncheon was the Anglican Archbishop of Quebec City Allen Goodings.

Before the luncheon Eliyahu, Shlush and Sabbah held a private meeting with Roman Catholic Archbishop Louis-Albert Vachon at the latter's residence. Consul-general Aviad later told The CJN an immediate rapport developed between Eliyahu and Vachon. "They found common ground in their interest in human rights, justice and peace and in their feelings for the scriptures. It was a very warm and relaxed meeting."

Vachon spoke of his visit to Israel a few years ago and his interest in archeology and the antiquities. According to Aviad, the archbishop expressed his wonderment at the mystery of the Jewish faith and the gratitude of Christians for what it has given to their religion.

The only less than successful part of the day was a visit to the Museum of Quebec where there was an exhibition on the establishment of the Catholic church in New France. Members of Eliyahu's entourage felt the art work, with its predominant Christian symbolism, was not appropriate for the Rishon Letzion's viewing and the visit was cut short — to the discomfort of the government officials in charge of the program.

Eliyahu went to Ottawa next day (as The CJN was going to press) where he was scheduled to meet Multiculturalism Minister Jack Murta and Communications Minister Marcel Masse at Parliament. He was also to attend a reception at the Jewish Community Centre and visit the Jacob Lowy collection of rare Hebraica at the National Library.

The Chief Rabbi examines an exhibit on the Lodz ghetto at the Montreal Holocaust Centre. (Janice Arnold photo).

Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu and Netanya's Chief Rabbi David Shlush examine book of 16th century writings by Sephardic rabbis — part of the rare book collection of Montreal's Jewish Public Library. (Janice Arnold photo).

The Chief Rabbi presides at inauguration of the Centre Sepharade Rabbinique Maghen David. At left is the Chief Rabbi of Netanya and, at right, Montreal Sephardic Chief Rabbi David Sabbah. (Ron Diamond photo).

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Previous administrative training and/or experience plus involvement in Jewish Community organizations are important qualifications.

Applications with resume and references should be sent by January 21st, 1985. Replies in confidence to Canadian Jewish Congress (Search Committee), 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2N7.

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DIARY ...of a People

By DAVID BIRKAN

On Tevet 6, 1215 — Dec. 30 this year — Pope Innocent III climaxed the Fourth Lateran Council, an international synod of high clergy in Rome, with a number of anti-Jewish decrees. They dealt a death blow to Jewish prominence and dignity, already undermined for decades by the Crusades.

Despite occasional setbacks, the Jews of Europe prospered in the first millenium — as merchants, moneylenders, minters, farmers and craftsmen.

Individual Jews attained a high degree of prominence as economic and occasionally military advisors in the courts of nobles and kings. Their apparent worldly success was incongruous for a people regarded by the church as cursed, not at all setting the appropriate example for the large number of pagans still left to be converted.

Official church policy from the time of Pope Gregory I (590-604) — to prevent Jews from exercising any semblance of authority over Christians and enjoying any privileges — was often circumvented or ignored at the local level.

Social relations between Jews and Christians flourished proportionately, with intermarriage a common phenomenon.

The Jewish position took a heavy blow with the start of the Crusades called by Pope Urban II at the end of the 11th century. Community after community in central Europe was pillaged by zealous would-be crusaders anxious to punish the local infidel first before setting off for the distant shores of the Holy Land — and to claim his wealth. The efforts were supported by rabble-rousing clergymen like Peter the Hermit, Nicolas Donin, Peter of Cluny and the monk Rudolph, who promised the mobs salvation for killing Jews.

In 1205, Innocent censured King Philip of France for not enforcing strict papal policy towards the Jews in his realm, calling them "murderers." He threatened to excommunicate King Alfonso of Castille if he continued to treat his Jews well — even if they were needed in the Spanish principality's struggle against the Moslems to the south.

Innocent wrote: "the Jews, like that fratricide Cain, are doomed to wander about the earth as fugitives and vagabonds, their faces covered with shame."

Innocent intervened in the centuries-old interdependence between Jews and the nobility by canceling the interest and suspending the principal payments on debts owed to Jews, for those joining the Crusades.

The Lateran decrees marked the pinnacle of Innocent's anti-Jewish reaction. They were issued less than a year before his death.

The nobles were exhorted to withdraw their authority and protection from Jewish moneylenders. "Excessive" rates of interest were forbidden, on penalty of economic isolation. Christians associating with Jews deemed usurous were liable to church punishment, including excommunication. Jewish owners of formerly Christian-owned lands and property were required to make up and keep up former tithes and dues to the church. The new regulations made moneylending — an economic activity forbidden by the church to Christians — unprofitable and risky.

"Since it would be altogether too absurd that a blasphemer of Christ should exercise authority over Christians," according to the pope's preamble. Jews were forbidden to hold public office. The decree was an extension of one first issued by Theodosius II in 439.

Jews were required to dress in a manner to set them apart from their Christian neighbors. Intermarriage was a grave concern to Innocent: they almost invariabaly meant a loss to Christianity. Illicit relationships often resulted in undue Jewish influence in high places.

In any case, Innocent added, "it may be read in the writings of Moses that this very law (of a special dress) has been enjoined upon them." He was referring to Numbers 15:37-41, which commands the wearing of tzitzit.

Innocent's law was implemented in the form of conical hats and a variety of badges sewn on outer garb: white tablets of the law, yellow wheels, and yellow stars. These so-called badges of shame for Jews originated with the Moslems in the 7th century and were revived as late as the 1940s by the Nazis.

As well, Jews were forbidden from going outdoors in fine clothes before or during Easter — when Passover is usually celebrated — in order not to "mock . . . the holy Passion."

Converts to Christianity, forced or otherwise, were forbidden to retain any customs from Judaism. The searching out of heretics and lapsed converts were undertaken by the Dominican and Franciscan orders and their institution called the Inquisition.

Sharon libel trial testimony

Time man campaigned for Peres

By ELLAN CATES

NEW YORK (UPI) — A Time Magazine reporter campaigned in Israel for the political rival of Ariel Sharon six years before reporting an article that prompted Sharon's $50 million libel suit, a Time executive conceded last week.

Sharon's lawyers hope to covince the jury in the 6-week-old trial the Time reporter had a political and personal bias against Sharon, Israel's former defence minister.

The attorneys called Time's chief of correspondents Richard Duncan as a hostile witness for Sharon in U.S. District Court in Manhattan. Duncan was the boss of Time's Jerusalem correspondent David Halevy.

Under questioing, Duncan conceded that Halevy had been reprimanded for his political activity in Israel while working for Time.

Duncan, who was Halevy's boss, conceded that Halevy had actively campaigned for Shimon Peres, leader of Israel's Labor Party in the 1976 election.

Peres is now Prime Minister.

"You admonished him never to do it again, didn't you?" said attorney Richard Goldstein, who represents Sharon.

"That was certainly the point," Duncan responded after a pause. "I don't want any of our correspondents involved in politics."

Goldstein asked Duncan if he agreed that Peres and Sharon were "political rivals."

"Yes," Duncan said.

"Isn't it a fact that Halevy was a close and open campaign advisor to Shimon Peres?" Goldstein asked.

"I don't know," Duncan said.

Sharon is suing Time over its 1983 Time cover story "The Verdict is Guilty," which Halevy reported on the basis of confidential sources in Israel.

Sharon contends Time's article is a "blood libel" that falsely accuses him of encouraging the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in Beirut on Sept. 16 and Sept. 17, 1982.

Time contends its article is essentially true.

The disputed Time story said the Sharon discussed with Lebanon's Phalangist leaders the need to avenge the death of their commander, Lebanon's president-elect Bashir Gemayel.

Support for quick pullout up

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The number of Israelis who favor the speedy, unconditional withdrawal of the Israel Defence Force from Lebanon is growing and while those who favor withdrawal, but only under certain conditions, remain a majority, their numbers have declined according to a public opinion poll published last week.

The poll showed that as of the end of November, 19.1% of the respondents favored immediate, unconditional withdrawal of the IDF, up from 12.7% in October.

Another 10% would have the IDF withdraw, but only if it is replaced by the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA). This was down from 11.2% in October.

The large majority of Israelis, 62.6%, indicated in November that they would support withdrawal only after suitable security arrangements are made with the Lebanese government and other involved parties. In October, they had constituted 64.1% of the respondents.

The number of Israelis who want the IDF to remain in Lebanon for the foreseeable future dropped from 8.9% in October to 6.5% at the end of November.

The poll found that those in favor of withdrawal are mainly women, the children of European and American families and the better educated and more affluent sectors of the population.

Moves solve gov't. crisis

[Cont'd. from page 1]

The dispute arose when religious responsibilities were taken away from the interior ministry — designated for Shas control — and placed under a new religious affairs portfolio, which was to be awarded to the National Religious Party apparently at its urging.

During the election campaign, the Likud coalition had promised Shas both portfolios. Labor, in turn, had offered control of the ministries to the National Religious Party.

The conflict got out of hand when Shas's leader, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, resigned.

At the heart of the dispute was the credibility of the Labor Party and Likud, both of which rely on peripheral parties to remain dominant. If they had been unable to deliver on their respective promises, they would have suffered a great loss of prestige and, by implication, of power.

Shas and the National Religious Party each has four Knesset seats, and thereby, can maneuver to improve their positions in the coalition.

As the crisis grew, Vice-Premier Yitzhak Shamir said he had given Peres 48 hours to resolve it, or "he knows what we will do."

Peres, aware of Likud's threat to pull out of the government, chided Shamir by saying, "This is no time for political games." Israel, Peres said, had enough problems without being bogged down by internal political disputes.

The secretary-general of the Labor Party, Uzi Baram, minimized the conflict by describing it as "a storm in a teacup."

Israel will leave UNESCO Jan. 1

WASHINGTON — Israel has pulled out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), effective Jan. 1.

The U.S., which has been contributing $47 million of UNESCO's $200 million budget, has withdrawn because it believes the agency has been politicized leftward and is financially irresponsible. It feels the agency has been leaning too much toward Communist states.

Great Britain has given notice it intends to pull out next year.

CJC assumes shadchan role

[Cont'd. from page 1]

rye Perlman, who is a counselor by profession. The JIS office and files at CJC headquarters will be locked at all times, said Finestone.

She also emphasized that JIS services are not for those seeking a casual dalliance; applicants should be marriage-minded or at least thinking in terms of a long-term relationship.

Needless to say, applicants must be Jewish and single — no separated people, divorces must be final (although those in the process can have their names put on hold.)

JIS was created as a result of a series of public meetings CJC's Commission on the Family and Marriage held some five years ago. At one such meeting for singles, said Shuchat, over 500 persons attended and a frequent comment was where does one find companionship if discos are unsuitable.

The Montreal Jewish Singles Association, now under the auspices of the YM-YWHA, was an earlier outgrowth of those meetings.

Finestone and Shuchat investigated private and community introduction services across the continent to find a suitable model. They finally chose the Personal Acquaintance Service of the Pastoral Institute of Canada which has been run by the United Church out of Calgary for some 20 years. JIS has adopted its materials and techniques, and its key workers trained at the Calgary centre.

Eventually, it is hoped JIS will become self-sustaining. According to figures from Allied Jewish Community Services, there are about 20,000 single persons of all ages in the Jewish community in Montreal alone.

Finestone said the $300 fee may sound high, but compared to that charged by private introduction services it is not.

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Editorial

Poland calls

Danka Hargish, a journalist writing for the California-based daily newspaper Israel Today, says in a recent article that Polish authorities want to expand cooperation with Israel and the Jewish people without necessarily renewing diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Hargish claims to have spoken with Polish authorities close to the upper echelons of the Warsaw government. Those people indicated that Poland is interested in pursuing contact with Jewish leaders who have heavy political and financial clout.

Poland wants Jewish help in accelerating Poland's bid to join the International Monetary Fund and in helping "to cancel the economic and political sanctions against Poland."

In exchange for this assistance a quid pro quo will be offered by Warsaw. The Polish government is said to be ready to supply Israel with coal, sulphur and copper and — to receive food products and other Israeli export items.

"Poles also see a possibility of signing a 20-year treaty for the import of citrus fruit from Israel," Hargish says.

Hargish's informants also indicated that Poland would also be ready to expand tourism with Israel and to open a LOT line to Tel Aviv. LOT is the national airline of Poland.

Almost half a century after the destruction of Polish Jewry the suggestion of an entente with the Warsaw government is a difficult one for the Jewish community to accept.

Given the needs of Israel today, however, common sense dictates that serious considerations be entertained about effecting a Polish-Jewish rapprochement.

Irony indeed

We note with interest an article in the current issue of the Jewish Digest (October/November) written by Torontonian Martin Kroessel. The article administers a mild reprimand to the Jewish community on this continent for its reluctance to provide special services for the Jewish handicapped.

Kroessel writes not from some abstract or theoretical position but rather as one who has suffered since birth from a physical handicap.

In his critique he writes of untoward personal experiences which he had as a child growing up in a Canadian Jewish environment. Administrators at a Talmud Torah "refused to accept me because they felt that I did not have the intellectual capacity to successfully take part in the program."

The author (who now hold both an undergraduate and graduate university degree) suggests that various Christian denominations have a far more enlightened attitude towards the handicapped than do Jewish groups.

In Boston, for example, blind worshippers are given Braille prayer books and welcomed specifically by the congregation's pastor.

The Jewish community's neglect of the handicapped, says the writer, can be seen in the simple fact that "to my knowledge, no Jewish community in North America has undertaken a study to determine how many disabled members it has."

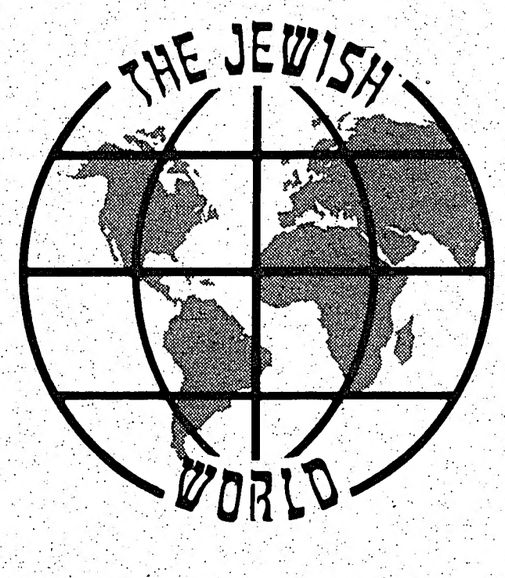
In his solid analysis of the Jewish community, writer Kroessel makes the point that neither the Jewish school system nor the synagogue makes a serious attempt to accommodate the disabled.

"It is a tragic irony that while lay religious leaders profess to be concerned about assimilation, the Jewish community remains content with a situation that makes it impossible for a large number of persons with disabilities to be affiliated with communal institutions."

Despite the fact that our Jewish communities are making great strides in accommodating the disabled the latter are important and sensitive words from one who speaks quietly and with much common sense.

Doctor reportedly did Nazi experiments

Medical award comes under a cloud



By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

The Falk Foundation of Freiburg, West Germany, has awarded the $5,000 Eppinger Prize for liver research since 1973. It is named for Hans Eppinger, a leading liver, heart and stomach specialist who died in 1946. Now comes word that Eppinger reportedly carried out medical experiments on prisoners in the Dachau concentration camp.

Dr. Howard Spiro, professor of internal medicine and gastroenterology at Yale University, brought the matter to light recently.

It seems that Eppinger poisoned himself when he was summoned to the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal for questions about his experiments. Eppinger, who was partly of Jewish origin, was dismissed from the department of medicine at Cologne University when the Nazis assumed power. He moved to Vienna and was appointed chief of a clinic there.

Eppinger remained in Vienna for the duration of World War II, even though he was theoretically Jewish under Nazi racial doctrine.

While in Vienna, Eppinger saved the life of a colleague, a full Jew by the name of Hans Popper, now a professor of medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York. He did so in 1938 by warning Popper that the Gestapo was after him, enabling him to escape to the U.S.

The Falk Foundation says it was not aware of Eppinger's involvement in Nazi experiments. But a spokesman told The New York Times that it would "cancel the prize immediately" if the charges against Eppinger were substantiated.

* * *

LIBEL ON A GRAND SCALE

John Harvey, the author of a history book entitled The Plantagenets, is under pressure to alter several passages dealing with the expulsion of the Jews from Britain in 1290.

Fontana, Harvey's publisher, has been informed that his interpretation of events leaves much to be desired.

Alluding to "most sinister crimes" of ritual murder and forcible circumcision, which were commonly attributed to Jews, Harvey concludes: "Whatever the merits of the case, it is difficult to doubt the statesmanship of (Edward I's) decision to remove the whole Jewish community. . . ."

Fontana announced last week that it will withdraw the book if Harvey does not revise it.

* * *

JEWISH VOTING PATTERN

One of the big surprises of this year's presidential election in the U.S. was the Jewish voting pattern. Observers expected a considerable shift to the right by Jews, but instead, American Jews voted for Walter Mondale over Ronald Reagan by a rather wide margin.

According to a new study by the American Jewish Committee, Jews cast their ballots for the Democrats in every state but Texas, where they favored Reagan by 64% to 36%.

In California, Reagan's home state, Jews favored Mondale by 76% to 24%. In New York and Florida, the figures were 70% to 30% and 59% to 41%.

Indeed, Jews were the only ethinc group that registered less support for Reagan in his second bid for the presidency than in 1980. Reagan, this year, picked up 33% of the Jewish vote, compared to 39% four years ago, probably because of his close association with Born Again Christian fundamentalists who want to Christianize America. In the 1976 election, Gerald Ford, the Republican incumbent, got 32%.

This doesn't necessarily mean that Jews are becoming more liberal. In fact, claims the American Jewish Committee, Jews are less liberal today than in former years.

Although Jews define themselves liberal by a 3 to 2 margin, the number of Jewish Democrats is shrinking as more Jews — now 31% — become independents.

The study, which was conducted by Steve Cohen, a Queen's University sociologist, suggests that younger Jews are growing increasingly conservative.

As Milton Himmelfarb, researach director of the AJC, put it: "There is no question that Jews are far more liberal than the average American. However, there is evidence of a growing conservative political trend, at the college freshman level, for instance. These figures show college freshman are less liberal than their older brothers and sisters and parents."

In spite of this, Jews tend to side with liberal positions on a variety of issues ranging from gun control to tuition tax credits for parochial schools.

They overwhelmingly support gun control, and they are firmly in favor of separation of church and state, opposing tax credits for families which send their children to private schools.

In addition, Jews support detente with the Soviet Union and, while they are less in favor of military spending than other Americans, they are for a strong U.S. military to back up Israel.

* * *

DIARY OF A DOOMED DUTCH JEW

Philip Mechanicus was one of the victims of the Holocaust. Born in 1889 in Amsterdam, he was a journalist whose dispatches for the Algmeen Handelsblad attracted some attention. Particularly noted were his articles on the Soviet Union and Jewish settlers in Palestine.

Immediately after the Nazi occupation of Holland, Mechanicus was given to understand that he could no longer set foot on the newspaper's premises. Nevertheless, he continued writing for Algmeen Handelsblad from home under a pen-name, until the directors dismissed him by letter.

Two years later, Mechanicus was standing in the back of a tram, without his mandatory yellow Star of David, when he was betrayed by a fellow passenger and arrested by a policeman.

On Oct. 25, 1942, Mechanicus was taken to Westerbork, a transit camp through which 100,000 Dutch Jews passed on their way to death camps. He survived the ordeal, but did not survive the war. On Oct. 12, 1944, Philip Mechanicus was shot in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Mechanicus left behind a diary, which has been published under the title of **Waiting for Death (John Wiley & Sons, $12.50).** It is a sad, sorrowful and very revealing human document, shedding light on the frailties of mankind.

This is no bitter tirade against his tormentors. This is a remarkably detached volume of an observant reporter who knows he is doomed by circumstances.

"I feel as if I am an official reporter giving an account of a shipwreck," he notes one fine May day. "We are all together in a cyclone and feel the ship slowly sinking. We try to reach a harbor, but that harbor seems far away."

The routine in Westerbork is deadening. During the daylight hours, he puts up with "petty annoyance" and the whimpering of children. At night there is "perpetual restlessness" as inmates shuffle to the toilets and cough. The daily struggle he wages against "the disgust of communal life," with its noise, triviality and vulgarity, seems endless.

Tension is high.

Religious Jews regard baptized Jews as traitors, as "an open sore in their midst." No other relationship in the camp is as bad, Mechanicus writes. It is tragic, he adds, to "see such dissension in a period of ordeal."

Jews married to Christians are in a privileged position. Confronted with the choice of being sterilized and returning to Amsterdam, or being shipped off to Poland, 90% of them opt for sterilization. Jewish inmates who do not possess this option criticize them for their lack of character.

Disease is an endemic problem, according to Mechanicus.

Infant mortality is high, with pneumonia, scarlet fever and intestinal complaints occurring frequently. Diarrhea hits many adults. "All day there is a smell of feces" in the air.

There is a breakdown of morality. "Everybody here steals and nobody is ashamed of doing it or upset if others do it," he observes. The lines of demarcation between honesty and dishonesty have become blurred. As he puts it: "Life here shows how easily a respected citizen, male or female, a very pillar of social order and private property, can slide down the slippery slope into a world which lives on theft. . . ."

Cases of martial infidelity are quite common amid the disintegration. A lot of men don't get to know their wives until they're in Westerbork, he comments, placing the onus of responsibility on the women.

After 11 months in the camp, Mechanicus confesses to being "bored to death on board this ship which has been listing for so long without sinking and without any help coming."

Yet boredom is not the only ailment which afflicts the Jews of Westerbork. Mechanicus fears they are resigned to their fate, like "caged beasts who have lost their natural impulses. . . ."

As the transports to Auschwitz thin out Westerbork's population, he notes ironically that only the dying are not considered "fit" for transportation eastward.

"Only those who are dying can be saved!"

So unfolds the universe in Westerbork, the way station to obliteration.

A Chanukah celebration in the Nazi transit camp of Westerbork, where Philip Mechanicus, author of Waiting for Death, was incarcerated. [Yad Vashem Archives]

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Flying high after Flin Flon

Ability keeps Bernard Ostry among the powerful

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

TORONTO —
From Wadena, Sask., this son of a Russian immigrant has come a long way.

Bernard Ostry, now deputy minister of the Ontario ministry of citizenship and culture, is part of a select group of civil servants who've had an enormous impact on Canada.

At 57, Ostry can look back on a career that has been fulfilling and even brilliant. At 57, he can look forward to at least eight more years of achievement before it is time to retire.

Ostry, who grew up in Winnipeg and Flin Flon, Man., has made his presence felt not only as a mandarin, but as a public broadcast official and drafter of an Asian peace plan.

Prior to working for Ontario, Ostry was employed by the federal government in a variety of capacities. He was the architect of the new Citizenship Act, he developed the program known as multiculturalism, and he was responsibile for a range of policies designed to restructure Canada's broadcasting and cable industries.

As supervisor of CBC's public affairs department, Ostry was around when This Day Has Seven Days was making broadcasating history week by week.

And, when he was just 24, Ostry helped draft a document that put an end to the Korean war.

Although Ostry has held jobs which many of his peers would undoubtedly envy, he claims he has never sought out any of them. "I'm lucky and I realize that," he said in an interview the other day, in a bare boardroom adjoining his large office with a view of busy Bloor St.

* * *

Luck is but one of the ingredients which has propelled Ostry into the upper reaches of Canada's civil service. Another one is sheer ability, a quality that has served him exceedingly well throughout the years.

One of three sons born to Abraham and Tobie Ostry (one son died in infancy), Bernard and his older brother, George, a chemical engineer by profession, were raised in the mining town of Flin Flon and the north end of Winnipeg.

Abraham Ostry, today 93, immigrated to Canada in 1912, having been born in the Ukrainian town of Ekatrinoslav. A printer's apprentice, he spent all his money for a ticket to Winnipeg, thinking that his only Canadian relative lived there.

As fate would have it, he was right. His uncle had come to Winnipeg some years earlier.

Ostry's father, who lives with his wife in Vancouver now, worked as a printer, carpenter and butcher before setting up shop as a storekeeper in Saskatchewan.

Drawn to Manitoba by a boom, Abraham Ostry established two general stores in Flin Flon. Bernard Ostry does not have fond memories of Flin Flon. The anti-semitism there was palpable, even to a boy dimly aware of religious differences.

After completing his secondary education, Ostry went to the University of Manitoba, where he studied history. In 1948, with a BA in hand, he traveled to England to do post-graduate studies at the London School of Economics. While in London, Ostry joined the India League, where he met its director, Krishna Mennon.

The India League was an anti-apartheid organization, and Mennon was to be India's ambassador to the United Nations.

In 1951, when Ostry was a research associate at the University of Birmingham, Mennon asked him to be his special assistant. Mennon called on the young Canadian because his thesis at the London School of Economics had been on Korea. Mennon, deeply involved in negotiations to end the Korean war, needed someone with Ostry's knowledge.

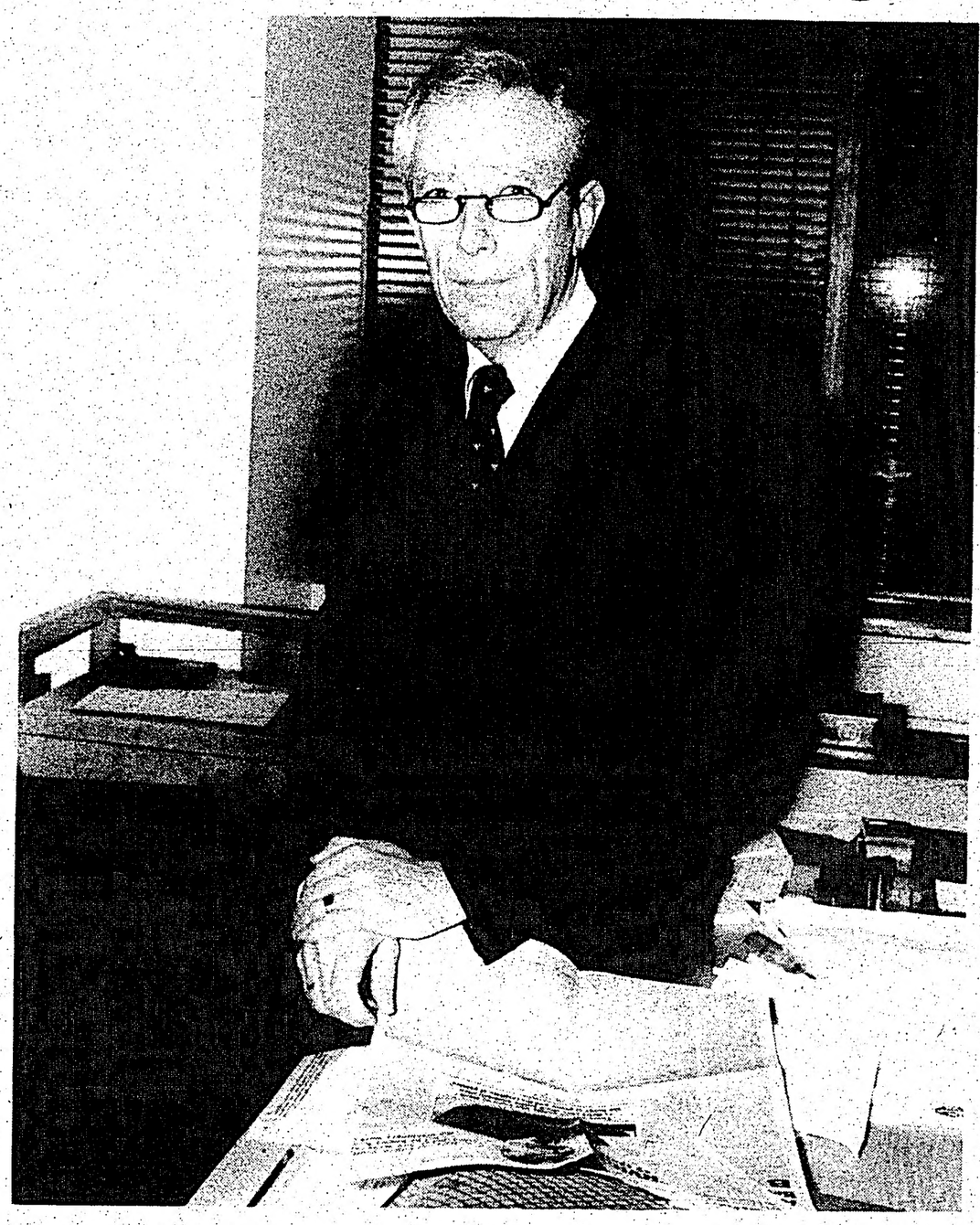
Ostry came through for Mennon by formulating a 10-point peace pact, which Lester Pearson — a future Prime Minister — is said to have described as the work of "a genius."

It is conceivable that Ostry could have used the occasion to carve a niche for himself as a diplomat. But he was not interested. "I never considered diplomacy as a career," he said.

Instead, he returned to the University of Birmingham, where he produced the manuscript for a book entitled The Age of Mackenzie King: The Rise of the Leader, still one of the better books on the subject.

Before going back to Canada to become the secretary-treasurer of the Social Science Research Council of Canada, Ostry was a fellow in international history at the University of London and an officer with the Commonwealth Institute of Social Research.

He claims he was "nagged" by a friend to be moderator of Nightline, a CBC weekly program on major social issues that proved to be extremely popular. From Nightline he shifted sideways, being appointed supervisor of CBC's public affairs department. Between 1963 and 1968, Ostry won four TV awards, one of which he picked up for a documentary on Pierre Trudeau, The Style is the Man Himself.



Bernard Ostry

Ostry seems particularly pleased that he was associated with This Hour Has Seven Days — a program which examined the issues of the day in a rollicking manner. "In its time it had the greatest impact of any program in Canadian history," he said. "CBC hasn't had anything like it before or since."

At the behest of Pierre Juneau, the current CBC president, Ostry moved to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. There he redesigned the regulations governing news and public affairs and educational and religious broadcasting. At the same time, he was a commissioner on the Prime Minister's task force on government information.

Probably the most important job he ever had in Ottawa was as assistant under secretary of state, in the department of secretary of state.

In addition to the Citizenship Act, and the Local Initiatives Program, Ostry and his colleagues drafted programs pertaining to youth opportunities and native Indians. The first women's bureau was established and the concept of multiculturalism was launched.

Asked if multiculturalism has been worth the cost and effort, Ostry said: "It is a much bigger success than was thought. It's like asking if Canada is a success."

In 1974, Ostry was named secretary-general of the National Museums of Canada and, four years later, became deputy minister of communications.

In these positions, Ostry administered such museums as the National Museum of Man and the National Gallery of Canada, and developed federal legislation culminating in the space-age Telidon technology — a system for receiving and transmitting information by television screen.

In his last federal posting, Ostry was attached to the Canadian embassy in Paris, as special advisor on culture and communication technology.

His wife, Sylvia, was then working in the French capital as head of the economics and statistics department of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

Sylvia Ostry, presently deputy minister of international trade and coordinator for international economic relations, married her husband in 1956. Since she is based in Ottawa, Ostry and her see each other only on weekends. "It's not (a routine) we would have chosen," he said dryly.

The Ostrys have two sons — Adam, 27, a civil servant in the Privy Council Office, and Jonathan, 22, a doctorate student in economics at the University of Chicago.

Bernard Ostry has lived in Toronto since 1981, when he was appointed Ontario's deputy minister of industry and tourism. In 1982, the name of the ministry was changed to industry and trade.

As deputy minister, Ostry brought change. He and the minister revised industrial incentives for restructuring and growth; expanded and upgraded trade offices abroad, and extended the role of the Ontario Development Corporations.

Now, as deputy minister of citizenship and culture, Ostry has responsibilities that cut across the lives of both new and old Canadians. He has been in this portfolio since 1984.

* * *

A remote, but forthright, individual, Ostry has served two Prime Ministers, one premier and 12 cabinet ministers in a career that has lasted nearly 25 years.

Having earned a reputation as a talented bureaucrat who can articulate practical, well-thought-out programs, Ostry is of the opinion that a public servant has the duty to make government better by serving the interests of the people.

Clearly, he does not believe that a civil servant should be a mere functionary. "Our job is to access ideas, and, in some cases, sift through the options to find solutions that are truly useful and refute Marshal McLuhan's assertion that 'politics offers yesterday's answers to today's problems.' "

Ostry also believes that civil servants are not just faceless bureaucrats. Because they exercise power, he thinks, they are responsible and accountable for the effects of public policy decisions.

Ostry, whose private interests run the gamut from music to books (especially non-fiction), has no formal connections with the Jewish community. But, as he pointed out, he has always been interested in Jewish affairs.

"I've never been a strong Zionist like my parents and grandparents, but you can't do anything but support the existence of Israel. The alternative is to watch the people of Israel being destroyed."

JAN PEERCE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Opera stars Robert Merrill, left, and Roberta Peters joined famed operatic tenor Jan Peerce and his wife Alice on Peerce's 50th anniversary in music at New York's Carnegie Hall in December of 1980. Jan Peerce, star of the Metropolitan Opera for 27 years, famed on Broadway for his portrayal of Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof and a cantor in his youth and after his retirement, died last week in his home town of New York at the age of 80. While on a tour of the Soviet Union a number of years ago he sang in synagogues and later performed for Soviet Jewish emigrants on their way to Israel in Vienna. He died after a lengthy illness. [AP laserphoto]

Opinion

Obtained info on Nazi in the U.S.

Book reveals OSI deals with Soviet judiciary

By
ARNOLD AGES

A newly published book by Allan A. Ryan Jr. reveals that in 1980 a group of American investigators for the justice department's Office of Special Investigations met with officials of the Soviet judiciary to enlist their support in obtaining documentation about suspected Nazi war criminals resident in the United States.

The leader of that group, and the author of Quiet Neighbors: Prosecuting Nazi War Criminals in America, (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) indicates that former Nuremberg prosecutor, Roman Rudenko, agreed to cooperate with the American team in a rare display of international good will.

No official communique about the cooperative venture was released at the time because, according to Ryan, the lack of any formal accord would permit the Soviets to discontinue the arrangements at any time. As it turned out, however, Rudenko's department in the Soviet government was extremely helpful in supplying the American lawyers with videotaped depositions from witnesses who had information about alleged war criminals.

Ryan says that one of the hardest parts of engaging the Russians in support of the investigative procedure was in convincing them of the legitimacy of cross-examination by defence counsel. The Soviets could not understand the presumption that a witness might not tell the truth the first time.

In his fully documented and expertly written book, Ryan says that at one point during the deposition procedures, an American attorney representing an accused client turned the cross-examination session into an attack on the Soviet legal system and its political defects. The lawyer's purpose was clear: the provocation was intended to cause direct Soviet intervention, thereby destroying the government's case against the suspected Nazi. Ryan had to work hard to persuade his Russian colleagues to adopt a hands off attitude during the videotaped hearings.

The role of Soviet officials in assisting the United States justice department is one of the most fascinating aspects of the Ryan story — which is both a history of American immigration policies after World War II and the sieve-like openings in that policy which permitted, according to Ryan's rough calculation, perhaps 10,000 Nazi war criminals to enter the United States.

How did such an anomaly occur?

Ryan, a non-Jew, traces the open door policy towards former Nazis to an amalgam of factors which produced the famous DP statute of 1948. Fear of Communism, latent anti-semitism, the receding memory of Nazi atrocities, Soviet imperialism and expansionism — these elements were joined in the enactment of a law which granted special immigration benefits to 200,000 Displaced Persons drawn from Baltic, Ukrainian and Volksdeutche peoples.

The provisions of the law, designed to succor those who were perceived to have suffered under Communist tyranny, excluded those who arrived in the DP camps after December 1945 (thereby excluding 85% of the potential Jewish DPs) but favored those with farming backgrounds.

The ironical aspect to the immigration policy was that the department of immigration and naturalization, normally one of the most restrictive government agencies, failed completely to keep tabs on the estimated 10,000 Nazis who entered the country simply by lying. Ryan does not suggest that there was any conspiracy involved — it was rather the lethargy, complacency and permissiveness of bureaucrats who were more concerned about Communist infiltration than Nazi pasts.

When in the 1970s, however, a cry went up from Jewish organizations (with some small assistance from others) about the affront to honor that was involved in providing a haven for Nazis, the wheels of American justice began to turn slowly. One of the major animators of the investigation of suspected Nazis was Elizabeth Holtzman, the indefatigable congresswoman who would not take no from recalcitrant bureaucrats in the justice sector.

In 1980 the Office of Special Investigations was set up to track down and bring to trial suspected Nazis who had broken the law in securing their entry into the United States.

Ryan makes the interesting point that in engaging staff for the Office of Special Investigations an effort was made to weed out those lawyers who had some personal stake in the investigation or a vindictiveness which might have impaired the work to be undertaken. No religious test was administered to the employees hired, but many were non-Jews.

In his survey of the more than 40 cases which the OSI has handled, author Ryan provides a graphic portrait of the brutality, callousness and lack of contrition which he observed in suspected Nazi criminals.

Perhaps the most gruesome of all the investigations involves John Demanjuk, a Ukrainian SS butcher who served as a guard at Trablinka. The description of the latter's beastiality towards the inmates of that camp makes for chilling reading. Demanjuk is only one of the two score Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Yugoslavian and German nationals who became "quiet neighbors" in America after participating in the most horrendeous bloodletting in history.

Ryan, a man of judicious judgment, makes the observation that not all the members of the nationalities involved participated in killing Jews. It was the work of a minority which has brought dishonor to the larger group.

Ryan is at the same time prosecutorial when it comes to defending the role of the OSI. To those who have tried to defend concentration camp guards, he says: "I dislike the term 'guard' in this context; it implies someone akin to a conventional prison guard, who maintains order among the inmates.

"The Jews in the death camps were not 'inmates,' the guards did not maintain order, and no one was 'concentrated' in the camps. The guards at Nazi death camps had one function only, which was to increase the speed and efficiency of death. Contrary to what many people might assume, and what many guards contend at trial, guards at death camps were volunteers. Anyone who felt he was not cut out for that gruesome work could be reassigned without penalty or fear for his safety."

Ryan explores in his conclusion the various factors which are offered in mitigation of the crimes committed by Nazis in the United States. He is firm in advocating their prosecution under all circumstances. There are no reasons — health or old age — to desist from the task of bringing these people to justice — providing that the law is observed.

"But recognize why we give them the benefit of law. It is not for their sake but for ours. The repulsive bullies who destroyed millions of families and then ran to America are entitled to nothing from our hearts but contempt. Yet they are entitled to law, not because they have earned it but because we cannot afford to sacrifice it. A civilized society that resorts to barbarism to deal with barbarians begins to let go of its civilization. It is our adherence to the law separates us from them."

Med-Dead Sea canal cost appears to doom project

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Cast in glowing terms as a unique latter-day pioneering project, the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal has run into serious trouble.

The $1.5 billion project, designed to generate an estimated 700,000 kilowatts of electricity per every eight hours, came under the recent scrutiny of Israel's state comptroller, Yitzhak Tunik, and did not fare too well.

At the request of the Knesset's state control committee, Tunik investigated the canal. Releasing his findings, he charged that the ministry of energy had failed to coordinate the Med-Dead work with the finance minister. But, worse still, he said the government had paid too little attention to economic experts who had questioned the usefulness of the canal.

Tunik's conclusions may have an influence on Moshe Shahal, the minister of energy, who this month will have to decide the fate of the canal after he receives a final feasibility report on it.

Reports out of Israel suggest that Shahal will shelve the project at least for the duration of the present economic crisis, and will not revive it until the economy improves or until the price of conventional power-station fuel becomes so prohibitive as to make the Med-Dead canal very feasible.

Even before Tunik handed down his verdict, the Israeli government had doubts about the project, which turns on the idea of producing fairly cheap electricity by harnessing the downward flow of water from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea — the lowest spot on earth.

Shahal had already slashed its budget and his predecessor, Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, had not even complained about the cuts.

As envisaged by Israeli planners, the canal would provide Israel with a steady source of energy at a time when Arab oil producers were threatening embargoes, and would slow the dangerous drying-up process in the Dead Sea.

Strictly speaking, Israel did not originate the concept. In 1850, a special British mission led by William Allen went to Palestine to study the notion of building a canal with a similar purpose. A report was submitted, but Britain let it gather dust.

In the 1870s, another British team restudied the plan. But no action was taken, and the project, such as it was, died an obscure death.

During the years of the British Mandate, Zionists discussed the possibilities of a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea. But it was not till 1974 that an Israeli government appointed a committee to explore the potential of such a project.

By 1976, two governmental ministries, plus the Israel Electric Corporation, were involved in a formal study of a canal. A year later, an inter-ministerial committee headed by Yuval Neeman, a renowned physicist and would be right-wing politician, was established.

The Neeman committee produced the first detailed outline in 1980 and, soon afterwards, Prime Minister Menachem Begin gave his approval to a plan for the digging of a canal.

The Israel Bonds organization took a leading role in raising funds, and approximately $100 million was reportedly raised.

Politically, the project was plagued by problems from the outset.

Jews in Israel who believed that the occupied areas should be traded in return for peace with the Arabs were disturbed that the canal would begin in the Gaza Strip.

The Arab League decided in 1981 to adopt strict measures and sanctions against any institution which financed or implemented the project. As a result of Arab pressure, a United Nations energy conference held in Nairobi condemned the project.

Chadli Kleibi, the secretary-general of the Arab League, put the case for the Arabs when he said that the project was a violation of international laws and conventions and a grave challenge to the Arab world.

According to the Arabs, the Med-Dead would ruin Jordan's plans for reclaiming the salt-saturated region southeast of the Dead Sea and pollute much of the still-fresh waters of the Jordan Valley's streams and aquifers. It was also held by the Arabs that the canal would damage Jordan's phosphate industry.

Kleibi, on behalf of 22 Arab states, demanded an undertaking from Israel to halt construction of the canal.

The Arabs were not the only ones who were upset: The European Economic Community told the United Nations that the canal would be contrary to international law.

Disputing these allegations, Israel went ahead with preparatory work, which cost about $15 million.

But by 1983, when the downturn in the Israeli economy was obvious, ardor for the much-touted canal had cooled.

Observers do not know whether the $15 million seed money was, as The Jerusalem Post claims, misspent on "a chimera." Neither do they know if the canal has any real future.

And what of the $100 million raised so assiduously by overseas fund raisers? The funds may be held in trust to gather interest. Or, more likely, they may be channeled to worthy causes in Israel which have a good chance of being implemented.

British doctor lauds Israel's relieving of cancer pain

TEL AVIV (JTA) —

A British physician believes Israel is ahead of the rest of the world in relieving pain suffered by terminal cancer patients. According to Dr. Mark Mehta, of Norwich, England, too few doctors around the world are aware of the benefits of the Israeli method.

Mehta, who was in Israel as a guest of the Israel Cancer Society, said: "You here in Israel have contributed an important discovery in this field — the opium implant in the spinal canal." He added that this "technique is now being developed in several European countries. In fact, when I was in Sweden last year, I met a man who was dying of cancer but because of the implant was able to go fishing."

According to Mehta, too many doctors in the Western countries think pain is inevitable for sufferers of the disease. They do not know how to bring their patients maximum relief. This is important, he explained, because if terminally ill patients are made comfortable for a year or so, someone may come up with a cure.

On the other hand, "if they are left in terrible pain they may die because they won't eat and they will be suffering too much to want to go on living," he said.

Mehta said research in pain relief is comparatively new because doctors and society in general have despaired of terminal cancer and believe treating it is a waste of time. "If society had the right attitude, namely that patients should not have to suffer, more would be done in the area of pain relief," he said.

A LITTLE SHLOFF

Something unusual — a quiet day in the Knesset, and Premier Shimon Peres takes a nap while vice-premier Yitzhak Shamir looks ready for one. [IPPA photo]

Opinion

New Jewish Spadinas emerging seems unlikely

By
J. B. SALSBERG

The Spadina of old — Jewish Spadina — (that I recalled two weeks ago) has vanished. And so have St. Lawrence Blvd., once the central thoroughfare of Montreal Jewry, and Selkirk Ave., an early cradle of Winnipeg Jewry.

J. B. Salsberg

Toronto's Spadina is now accommodating the growing Chinese community. The nameplates of streets in the Spadina area that were once jampacked with first- and second-generation Canadian Jews have now blossomed out with Chinese characters to help the new residents find their way.

Montreal's St. Lawrence, with its unforgettable Jewish political and cultural battlegrounds, like Pine Ave., Rachel, Mt. Royal, etc., has become the bustling and very colorful quarter for the Greek, Portuguese and other peoples from the Mediterranean region. As for Winnipeg's Selkirk district, it has become everything but Jewish. The same metamorphosis has, of course, taken place everywhere else in North America.

Now, I do not consider the massive wave of migration from the old centres to new, newer and newest encampments as something to be decried or lamented. But neither do I believe that this communal leapfrogging is to be cheered or celebrated.

The old Jewish heartlands developed as all-embracing Jewish cultural, social and national societies. They reflected the problems as well as the aspirations of the immigrant Jewish entity in this land. **They were integrated societies, despite their various divisions and confrontations.**

But their physical disappearance has not, generally speaking, been followed by integrated Jewish communities in the new, suburban Jewish centres. (Certain Orthodox sectors are trying to achieve a form of total Jewish living — space for themselves — and I wish them success.) In short, there are no new Spadinas, as yet, to replace the vanished ones.

Whether new Jewish Spadinas, adjusted to the far-reaching changes that have occurred, can be recreated at all is a very legitimate question. Such Jewish communities, in the midst of a much larger, all-embracing, open society is not, I'm afraid, determined by subjective desires alone but, rather, by powerful objective conditions.

The late Dr. Chayim Zhitlowsky, the major ideologue and advocate of a national, but secular, Jewish civilization in which religion is only one of its ingredients, once advanced the idea of establishing small, all-Jewish satellite towns within commuter distance of such metropolitan centres as New York, Boston, etc., so that residents of such Yiddish-speaking communities could go to work in the big cities and return to a completely Jewish environment.

Nothing came of that vision. Nothing could, indeed, ever come from it. At the time of its proposal I considered Zhitlowsky's project (despite my many agreements with him and my great admiration for that unusual personality) as an idealistic but utopian idea.

The utopian nature of such ideas doesn't, however, deter some chassidic branches in the U.S. (and, experimentally, also in Canada) from trying to establish chassidic satellites.

Having deliberately segregated themselves in the Williamsburg area of New York's Brooklyn borough, they have now made considerable headway in the development of their own satellite communities in New Jersey, New York State, etc.

The inescapable fact is that Canada is a far different country now when compared with the Canada of half-a-century ago. And so is our own Jewish community. By and large Canada is now a multicultural state and its economic and political problems are of an entirely new kind. So is the picture of Canadian Jewry.

The emergence of Israel has exercised a profound effect on the thinking and commitments of Jewish society. Internally, Canadian Jewry experienced many far-reaching social and economic transformations.

We are no longer the almost exclusive clothing makers for the Canadian population. But we have not become, as some people think erroneously, a middle and upper class society either. We have a reasonable percentage of rich in our ranks but also the full measure of "lower classes" and of those who live below the poverty line.

What has not yet been fully grasped is that Canadian Jews have (not unlike the rest of the country) entered new areas of gainful occupations. Our wage and salary earners are now diversified. But this massive new category of Jewish economic class has not yet found its own social and cultural articulation as had their fathers and grandfathers who filled the small and large clothing factories a generation or two ago.

The absence of that voice — the voice of our wage and salary class — contributes to many distortions in the policy-making and policy-implementing processes of Canadian Jewry at present. This regrettable social distortion really hinders in the re-establishment of the kind of tolerant, competitive but integrated new Spadina-type of Jewish communities.

But, gevalt, my patient and loyal readers! Why have I burdened you with this, atypical column? I'm afraid that even the language I used in this piece is a radical departure from the language you and I are accustomed to. But don't worry. We will, I assure you, return to our normal style of communication. I promise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome if they are in English or French, no more than 250 words, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit letters, which must bear the sender's adddress and handwritten signature.

* * *

JEZEBEL NOT SO BAD

Re Ray Havelock's Dec. 6 letter attacking Rabbi Immanuel Schochet's lecture on feminism:

Why does Havelock jump to the conclusion that a critique of Jezebel must necessarily refer to Reform Judaism?

Jezebel was not perfect, but why does Havelock attack this woman who was the prototype of all he invites modern women to do?

According to our Bible and Midrash, Jezebel was a regular worshipper at her local temple. The services she advocated were fully adapted to contemporary mores and outlook, with full participation of women.

Jezebel did reject the rituals of old-fashioned Orthodoxy. But she also followed the humanistic ideals of Judaism: she showed extraordinary sympathy with all others in their joys and sorrows, thus becoming a model for the virtue of kindness!

Havelock claims that Reformers do not have horns and tails. But if his approach is symptomatic of Reform, then they also do not have open-mindedness and consistency.

L. A. Leiner
Toronto

* * *

NORMA NO JEZEBEL

I am new to Toronto, having moved here from Montreal one year ago. I do not know Rabbi Immanuel Schochet. But I am proud of my very close relationship with my dear friend and teacher, Norma Joseph, who, in a Dec. 6 article in The Canadian Jewish News is describd by the rabbi as a modern Jezebel.

I have learned from my friend the evils of lashon hara. Perhaps the rabbi would be wise to sit down with Norma Joseph and learn as well, as she has not on her road to feminism forgotten the basics of Judaism.

Joyce Eklove
Toronto

* * *

VEGETARIAN RAPS RABBI

The columns, Living Halacha, are often convoluted, contradictory, and embarassing. In particular, the column dealing with vegetarianism (Dec. 6) hits a low point.

It starts off well: "A look at the Torah will show us that man started out as a vegetarian."

It then degenerates into a defence of meat-eating, ending with the contemptuous, "Are you that holy?"

Recently, Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg lectured in Montreal, and one of the topics dealt with was vegetarianism, which he called "the ultimate, humane Judaic achievement."

It would appear that Rabbi Burak rather sides with those theories, most recently championed by Robert Ardrey, which proclaims that man has been, is, and always will be, a hunter with a natural urge to kill.

There is a trace of the Christian concept of innate sinfulness in Rabbi Burak's arguments.

The idea of a Living Halacha column is excellent. Unfortunately, for the most part, it has been denigrating and nebulous.

Nahum Ravel
Montreal

* * *

Mordecai Richler

RICHLER'S SATIRE "NASTY"

Frank Rasky's Nov. 29 article headed, "Nervous Richler has problems answering questions":

His article on Mordecai Richler's appearance at the recent Toronto Jewish Book Fair is a fine piece of reporting. It is a subtle revelation of Richler's ambivalence towards his Jewishness.

There are certainly elements in Canadian Jewish life deserving of Richler's satiric treatments, but these negative elements constitute Richler's exclusive focus.

He describes himself as trying to be "an honest witness;" without impugning Mr. Richler's honesty, his vision of Canadian Jewish life is not only narrow and reductive, but nasty. It is a distorted view.

I believe the root cause of this stems from his own ambivalent attitude towards his Jewishness. His idea of "having made it," as revealed in the thinly-disguised autobiographical Joshua Then And Now, is marrying a Gentile woman whose rich father is a Canadian senator, and thereby distancing himself from the Jewish vulgar.

My compliments to Mr. Rasky on a journalistic tour-de-force.

Marion Richmond
Research director
Canadian Publishing Foundation
London, Ont.

* * *

THANKS FROM BOOK FAIR

We were delighted with the excellent publicity that Toronto's Jewish Book Fair received in your paper over the past few months.

On behalf of my board of directors, please accept my sincere thanks.

Hannah Schusheim
Toronto

* * *

KISSINGER NOT HER KOP

With regard to Henry Kissinger's visit to the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations: For any person or groups of persons wanting to be associated with this most illustrious of celebrities is a source of amazement.

Noch, to pay a handsome price for this honorable visit is a crime.

With all the flack about Ethiopian Jewry, the money could have been used to bring many more of our brethren out of that wartorn and famine-ridden country and aided in their absorption into Israeli society.

Mr. Kissinger's warmonger reputation and behavior have been well documented. A good example is the book The Thousand Day War. Who do you think was partly responsible for the 3 million dead Cambodians?

Yet, still knowing his policies, the man is treated with such reverence.

His rhetoric may be believed by the majority of American kops, but this Canadian one takes it with a grain of salt.

Janet R. Fine
Toronto

Editor's note: Kissinger said he did not charge for his speech at the GA.

* * *

"WHO IS A JEW" ISSUE

This is written in reaction to coverage of my speech in Montreal on the "Who Is A Jew" issue, reported in the Nov. 29 Montreal edition.

I'd like to clarify that this is no political matter; nor should it be reduced to an Orthodox vs. Reform confrontation.

I said then and I reiterate that this is an issue involving the entire Jewish community. We must enter into serious dialogue together to find solutions to the problem that will save the Jewish community from the cataclysmic split that threatens to divide us.

Firing long distance missiles in the form of pronouncements will merely fan the flames, but will not solve the problem.

I have spelled out the issue and the potential consequences, as well as offering some solutions, in my new book, The Coming Cataclysm: The Orthodox-Reform Rift and The Future of The Jewish People, published by Mosaic Press.

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka
Ottawa

* * *

NOT 3, BUT 4

It is always a pleasure to settle back with my copy of The CJN, which is truly my personal key to the world.

I have never doubted your credibility, until I read your Nov. 15 article headed "Only three groups represent Canada," which are listed as the Canadian Jewish Congress, Canada-Israel Committee and Jewish Immigrant Aid Service.

What about B'nai B'rith, the largest Jewish service organization in Canada, with a membership of 10,000?

Jay L. Mandelker
Montreal

* * *

IT'S SHARON, NOT ARIEL

Re the Oct. 17 article, "Future bleak for Jews as whites flee Zimbabwe":

I sent the article to Barney Katz of Bulawayo, who is well known to me and my family, as we are ex-Rhodesians, and who is mentioned in the article.

Mr. Katz has pointed out the following discrepancy:

"We wish to point out that the Jewish day school in Harare known as Sharon was NOT named after Ariel Sharon. In fact, the school has been in existence for over 25 years, and was named after the geographical region in Israel known as Sharon, for the same reason that the school in Bulawayo is called Carmel."

Could you please insert this correction.

Arthur Simon
Toronto

* * *

WEDDING PLANNERS HELPED

Until recently, The CJN was enjoyed in our household for the interesting and informative articles we read each week.

However, as we are in the midst of planning for our daughter's forthcoming marriage, we were delighted to learn of the wedding planning services provided by Myra Feldman and Evelyn Hoffman through your featured articles by them. Mrs. Hoffman, in particular, was most helpful with suggestions, expertise and personal attention.

Thank you for providing a real service to your readers by making us aware of the many valuable resources within the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Pascoe
Toronto

* * *

LAUDS FAMILY VIOLENCE AID

The Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am's Brotherhood and Sisterhood are to be commended for their excellent presentation on Dec. 7 concerning violence in the family."

It is community programming such as this that will give hope to those who are in these intolerable situations.

At a time in their lives when these victims are frightened, feeling alone, helpless and in need of friendship and understanding, the moral support of the community is most important.

With increased knowledge and understanding of the complexities of family violence, we will all become aware of how to work together towards ending this intolerable mental and physical family abuse.

Marilyn H. Horwich
Toronto

Stresses religion must not bar access

Timbrell: decision on schools must await report

This interview is the first in a series with the candidates for the leadership of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

By
PATRICIA RUCKER

TORONTO —

Dennis Timbrell would consider extending limited financial assistance to alternative day schools in Ontario in the form of support for "the cost of teaching and learning materials."

But on any other aspect of funding for alternative schools, the 38-year-old candidate to succeed William Davis as Premier of Ontario consistently referred to the 1-man commission headed by Dr. Bernard Shapiro set up last June to examine the issue.

The commission is expected to report in May.

Timbrell, a former public high school history teacher, has been described as a plodding speaker.

But as he talked about an education system in which he once worked, the cabinet veteran of 11 years and four portfolios — youth, energy, health and agriculture — was relaxed and extremely articulate.

Although he would not speculate on the Shapiro commission's possible recommendations, he discussed in depth the issues he believes the commissioner must deal with.

At the very beginning of the interview, he pointed out that two conditions have been applied to the extension of full funding to the Roman Catholic school system, also announced last June.

The first is "that they (the Catholic schools) must take any and all students without regard to their religion and without regard, of course, to their learning capacity."

And the second is "that they will have to agree not to put any barriers, artificial or otherwise, in the way of hiring teachers. And my impression is that there are many other systems that wouldn't be prepared to accept those conditions in their entirety."

He did qualify his insistence on an open hiring policy so that teachers of religious subjects would be excluded.

"But for all other subjects, there should be no barriers."

A policy of open enrolment is both an educational and a religious issue. One of the concerns, Timbrell said, "although I think it's a concern that really doesn't have a lot of substance to it, has been that the separate schools might turn away the more difficult to handle students and to be selective in those children who they would accept.

"Well, obviously that's not acceptable, first of all, and secondly I don't think that school administrators — or anyone who's been pleading their case for funding — would even contemplate that."

Apply same rules

Timbrell was equally clear that religion could also not be used as a barrier to access. But would religious education be compulsory for students enrolled in a school teaching a faith other than their own?

(Non-Catholics in Catholic schools are required to take religious subjects.)

He turned the question around. "In a school board that has mainly Christian religious education courses, I wouldn't force a Jewish student to take Christian courses."

The right to opt out of religious education courses is, for many denominational day schools, including the Catholic and Jewish, a major issue, because it could affect the character of the school.

It is, said Timbrell, "one of the areas of contention that we haven't yet resolved."

But the same rules should apply to all systems. "I don't see how in one system you can say to a student, where there are religious education courses, you can opt out if you choose, and not extend the same consideration and understanding elsewhere."

Another issue Timbrell identified as one which the Shapiro commission must resolve — if it should recommend any form of funding — is the relationship of the alternative schools with the local school boards.

"You don't want to end up with a multiplicity of school boards. This is an area where Dr. Shapiro has got to delve deeply to come up with some realistic proposals. . . so that there's no misunderstanding on the selection of students, the availability of programming, movement of teachers — all of these issues.

"None of those could be adequately addressed without first addressing the relationship, whether it's a direct one or one of liaison — required liaison — with the local school boards."

On another major issue of concern to the Jewish community — legislation to control hate literature — Timbrell said that "the Criminal Code is far and away the best vehicle to attack this cancer."

He would like to see "proper amendments" passed that would make the federal legislation more effective. (Two proposed amendments died on the order paper when the previous Parliament dissolved before last summer's general election campaign.)

He had some reservations about the effect of a third amendment which also died on the order paper. It would have removed the need for obtaining the consent of the provincial attorney-general before launching a prosecution.

But, he said, "with certain safeguards, I'd be prepared to negotiate that kind of change," for example, "some mechanism of review with the attorney-general — required review — so this wouldn't become something that would lead to the reduction of the authority of the provincial attorneys-general."

The Lawlor Commission report, which recommended that the powers of the Ontario Human Rights Commission be broadened to deal with hate literature at the provincial level, has met with a lukewarm response from the Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region.

Describing the Human Rights Commission option as "sort of a second best fallback to getting the necessary amendments to the Criminal Code," Timbrell suggested that the Commission could be given the authority to go to court to get a cease-and-desist order while a case was being decided.

He also supported the proposal that a new tort — a civil wrong — be created by legislation so that groups which have been the target of hate literature could start an action on their own.

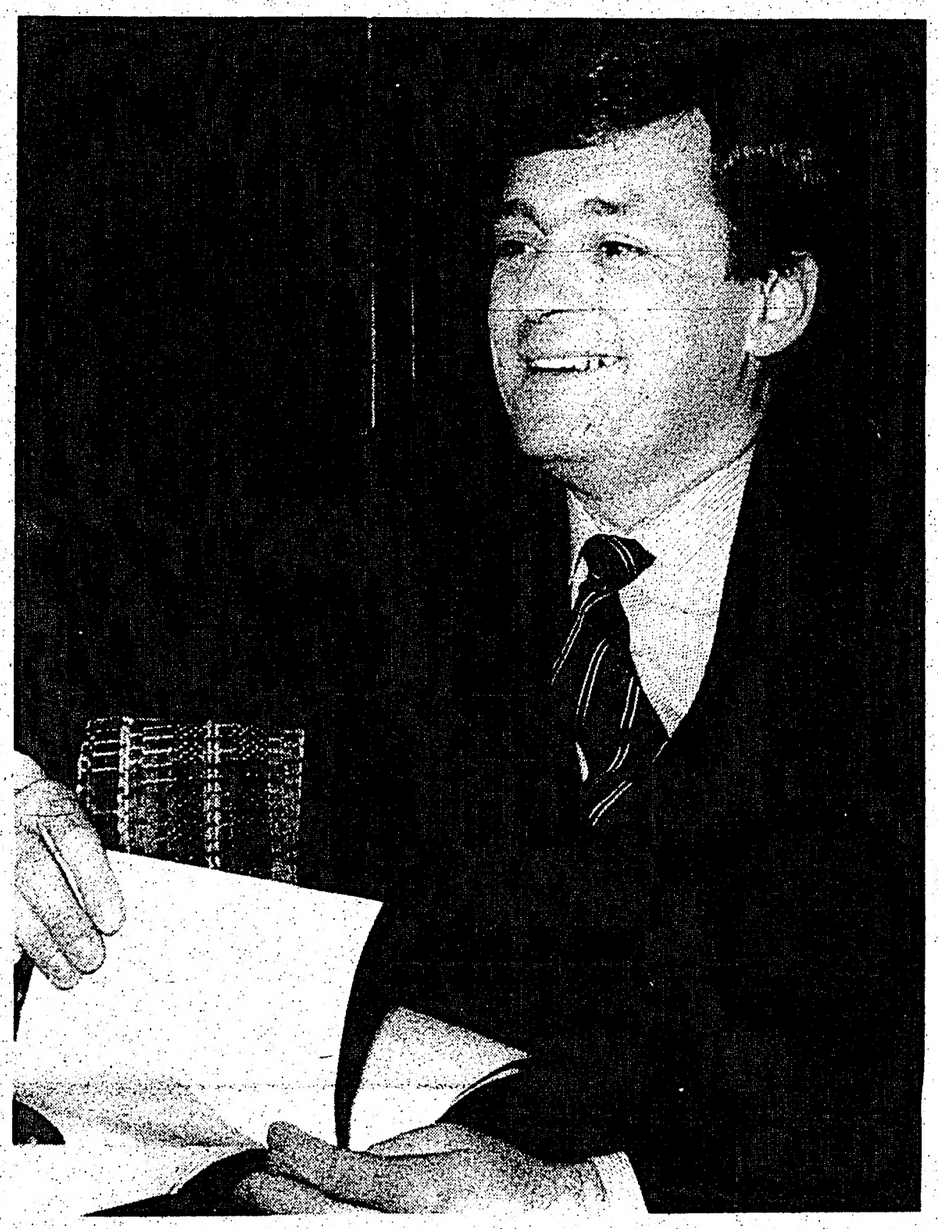
On a number of social issues, the former (1977-1982) minister of health:

- Took a shot at his rival leadership candidate Larry Grossman's proposal to raise university tuition fees "as I understand it" by inflation plus 10% per year. "I worry that the kind of formula he's come out with would make the system more elitist and deter more young people."

Timbrell would limit tuition fee raises to 1% per year more than inflation until they reach 20% of the cost of education. They now represent 17% to 18% of the cost, according to his figures.

- Proposed rationalization of programs for the elderly that are now financed by two ministries — health and community and social services — by bringing them under one roof.
- Called for the establishment of more health services organizations (HSOs) — group practices which receive an annual global budget based on the OHIP fees for an agreed-upon range of services and the number of patients on their rosters.
- Proposed a compromise on the provisions of the Canada Health Act. Ontario would no longer allow extra billing in hospitals or any other publicly funded facility.

"But physicians would retain the right to choose how they would deal with their patients in their own privately funded and operated offices."



Dennis Timbrell, one of four candidates for the Ontario PC leadership.

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"BEST POSSIBLE QUALITY – LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE"

Lockout narrowly averted

Winnipeg's Jewish teachers get new contract

By
MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG — Eleventh hour negotiations between the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education and its teachers recently averted a lockout and ended a 6-week work-to-rule campaign by the teachers, who had been without a contract since Dec. 31, 1983.

Under the terms of the new contract, the board's 90 teachers are to receive a salary increase of 4% covering Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 1984, and an increase of 3% from Sept. 1, to next Aug. 31, plus interest on back pay.

A sticking point, however, was the teachers' demand for a system of binding arbitration — similar to that in the public schools — should contract talks break down in future, but this was finally negotiated in modified form.

The Board of Jewish Education was created in 1980 with the intention of amalgamating the parochial schools' boards into one to rationalize costs and delivery of services. Four schools joined. Only the younger, more religiously-oriented Herzlia Torah-Academy remained apart.

From the beginning, the board and its teachers have had a "stormy history" of negotiations, says Maureen Steinfeld, president of the Winnipeg Jewish Schools Teachers Association. "When negotiations broke down on our second contract in 1982," she said, "we ended up using a work-to-rule campaign. This time, we decided in future we never want to put students and staff through (this) again."

The teachers insisted the contract package include a model for binding arbitration. In the past, the board has been wary of binding arbitration to solve contracts disputes because of the feeling that the process always favors employees, regardless of the employer's ability to pay. The board agreed to prepare a working model which was presented to the teachers who were told they had three days to accept or reject it.

"We accepted the model — but had some major reservations," said Steinfeld. "We offered, as an act of good faith, to suspend the academic part of our work-to-rule campaign while we continued negotiations. In reply, the board was going to lock us out."

The final negotiating session lasted until past 3 a.m. The teachers accepted the board's mediation-arbitration-review panel model spelled out in a 3-page document.

"The board will be able to appeal the arbitrator's decision to a review panel on the grounds of inability to pay," said board chairman Evelyn Katz, "but the appeal will be based on wages only. The board will not be able to raise tuition specifically to make up the difference," she added.

"The teachers gave up their right to job action or strike. We give up the right to lock them out. I'm very satisfied. Everybody gained."

Safety tips for women

TORONTO — Inspector R. Dick of the Metropolitan Toronto Police offers the following advice to women who are out shopping during darkness:

- Try to shop with a companion.
- Park your car in a well-lit area, locking all doors.
- Upon returning, check the rear seat area before entering the vehicle.
- If walking, use the lighted side of the street.
- If being followed, ask for assistance from the nearest residence, passing cab or motorist.
- If anything appears suspicious, call the police.

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Organizations and People

What's New

By MIRIAM CHINSKY

JEWISH YOUTH CALENDARS

Jewish youth program calendars are available from Jewish Information Service. The youth calendar/ directory contains descriptions of youth groups, their programs and whom to call. There is a nominal charge. Phone 635-5600 [Voice or TTY].

DISTRESS RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

Can you help? Jewish Information Service is setting up training courses for its Tel-Aide Jewish Distress Response Project, and volunteers are needed. Training will stress the experiential and will include role playing.

Various time slots will be available when the phone lines begin in the spring. Call 635-5600 for an application.

HOLIDAY SKIING

Let it snow! The North York Ski Centre, located in Earl Bales Park at the corner of Bathurst St. and Sheppard Ave., will be open daily 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Dec. 24 until Jan. 7.

Come and enjoy one beginner and three downhill slopes, two T-Bars, daily snow making, a complete line of rental equipment and a warm, cosy chalet, all at everyday low prices.

Cross-country enthusiasts can ski along the trails in this beautiful 160 park at no cost.

The centre will be closed Dec. 25, but will open Jan. 1 from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more details on snow conditions, rental rates and lift ticket prices, call the snow phone at 638-0459.

PASSOVER IN ISRAEL TOUR

Here is your chance to fulfill the ancient yearning, "Next year in Jerusalem." **Rabbi David Cooper's** Passover in Israel tour, sponsored by Am Echad congregation, will depart April 1 for 16 days. Included are two seders, a complete touring package and two meals daily. Joining the group will be a contingent from the smaller Jewish communities outside of Toronto. To receive an itinerary with the pricing package, call 499-1584.

CJC MIDDLE EAST REPRINTS

The Community Action for Israel Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress has reprinted, in booklet form, the series of notices which recently appeared in the CJN. Those wishing a free copy of Middle East Periodical Guide [as the reprint is entitled] may telephone [416] 635-2883, local 147, or write C.A.I.C., 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, Ont. M2R 3V2.

GOULDING TINY TOTS

Goulding Tiny Tots, in the Steeles and Yonge area, is a co-op program operated by parents in the community with the support of North York Parks and Recreation.

Applications are now being accepted for the next session, Jan. 7 - March 7.

This recteational program is for toilet trained children aged 2 to pre-kindergarten and takes place four mornings a week, 9.15 - 11.15 a.m. Cost is $135. To inquire further, contact **Lucy,** 221-9115 or **Dagmar,** 663-8218.

ISRAEL ALIYAH CENTRE

A meeting of B'nai Torah families ages 21 - 35, is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 2 to discuss Moshav Matityahyu, a Torah yishuv in Israel.

At the yishuv, a private villa is provided for each family, education at Yeshivat Sha'alavim, and parnassa [the economy] is based on light industry - electronics and agriculture. Ready now, are a mikvah, shul, store, doctor and nursing services and a kindergarten.

For additional information contact the Israel Aliyah Centre, 665-7772.

TOM THOMSON EXHIBITION

An exhibition of oil and watercolor sketches by **Tom Thomson,** one of Canada's most famous artists, is on view at The McMichael Canadian Collection until June 30.

The gallery possesses one of the finest collections of Thomson's work, and this group of 30 sketches is drawn from its permanent acquisitions.

The exhibition follows Thomson's rapid development and his achievements as a colorist and portrayer of the northern Ontario landscape. His sketches are characterized by vivid colors, free brush strokes and an often sparkling use of light.

During their association, Thomson had a profound influence on the Group of Seven, and although his career ended abruptly, he left a legacy of originality and strength which few artists can equal.

JVS CAREER COUNSELING

The Career Counseling Centre of Jewish Vocational Service is offering a series of counseling sessions for people now in grade 12, 13 and college, as well as others in that age group who are planning a career.

The new group starts January 14. It offers tests and exercises to determine interests, aptitudes and personal needs; educational and occupational information; explores career and educational options and promotes goal setting.

Six group sessions of about two hours each are followed by individual interviews. For advance registration call **Sandy Wise** or **Vivian Pullan,** 787-1151.

WORLD COUNCIL OF SYNAGOGUES

All members of the Conservative movement are cordially invited to participate in the 15th International Convention of the World Council of Synagogues in Jerusalem, Feb. 11 - 20, and a Fact Finding Mission in Spain, Feb. 20 - 27.

To inquire further, contact the United Synagogue office, 789-0579.

PROGRAM FOR YOUNG JOBLESS

Unemployed 15 to 24-year olds who haven't finished high school are eligible for a new provincial government program called Ontario Youth Start.

Young people accepted into George Brown College's Youth Start program, which begins in January, will have the opportunity to improve their chances of finding jobs.

The program provides on-the-job training, career counseling , academic upgrading and $100 a week salary.

Applications are now being accepted.

For more information call George Brown College's Youth Start office at 967-1212, ext. 3393/4.

TJC LEADERSHIP TRAINING

On Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 5.45 p.m., in the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., the Adult Institute Planning Committee of Toronto Jewish Congress will sponsor an Adult Education Leadership Development Training session. All programmers from synagogues and organizations in the area are urged to attend.

A resource centre for the exchange of ideas, and networking, will be developed from the evening's deliberations. **Arthur Grant,** a local community planner, will help the group develop a needs assessment for themselves and their constituents.

A supper and social get together is included. Phone your reservations to **Mel Sachs,** program coordinator of the Jewish Cultural Council, 635-2883, ext. 151.

BAYCREST NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

If you can spare a couple of hours a week, why not become a volunteer at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The Centre, which provides care and support to seniors of every faith, race and nationality, needs volunteers who have skills in Arts/Crafts, Music, Literature, Fitness, Home Economics, Swimming and many other recreational activities.

Baycrest, known as one of the finest seniors' facilities anywhere, is able to offer many special extras because of its caring volunteers, but more are urgently needed. If you can assist in any way, call 789-5131 and ask for the volunteer office.

ART IN NORTH YORK LIBRARIES

North York libraries are exhibiting a variety of art forms in the main building and at branches throughout the city during December.

At the Central Library, 5126 Yonge St., are acrylic paintings by **Fatima [Sonja Rathke]. Vicki Waring's** watercolors are on view at Fairview, 35 Fairview Mall Drive, just east of Don Mills Rd. Displayed at Hillcrest Library, 5801 Leslie, just north of Finch Ave., is **Lillian Kay's** leather art. Pleasantview Library, 575 Van Horne Ave., west of Victoria Park Ave., features sculpture and pottery by **Franki Stanwyck. Thomas Jehn's** photography can be seen at Don Mills Library, 888 Lawrence Ave. E., just west of Don Mills Rd. and at Brookbanks Library, 210 Brookbanks Dr., south of York Mills Rd., **Marie Jackson's** acrylics are exhibited.

For more details on these shows, call 494-6923.

SNOWBIRDS INVITED

Canadian "snowbirds" wintering in the Miami area are invited to the annual luncheon of the American Committee for Shaare Zedec Hospital on Wednesday, Jan. 23, in the main ballroom of Temple Emanuel, Miami Beach. Tables will be reserved for Canadian supporters of the hospital.

Proceeds will be used for the Shaare Zedek department of continuing care and Canadian tax receipts will be issued to Canadian residents.

For more information, call the Toronto office at 781-3584 or the Miami Beach office at 531-8329.

PUPPETEERS PERFORM

North York Public Library Outreach Puppeteers invite children of all ages to celebrate the holidays with them as they visit library branches with a couple of puppet shows which are sure to please. They will perform Who Nose, the mystery of the missing nose, and The Princess and the Dragon, in which **Princess Bedelia** uses her common sense to save herself and the kingdom from fiery destruction.

Plan to have some fun with the Library Outreach Puppeteers at Bathurst Heights Library, 3170 Bathurst St., [north of Lawrence Ave.], Wednesday, Jan. 2, 10.30 - 11.30 a.m; Centennial Library, 578 Finch Ave. W., [west of Bathurst St.], Thursday, Dec. 27, 2.30 - 3.30 p.m; Flemingdon Park Library, 29 St. Dennis Dr., Thursday, Jan. 3, 2.30 - 3.30 p.m; Hillcrest Library, 5801 Leslie St., Friday, Dec. 28, 10.30 - 11.30 a.m . or Pleasant View Library, 575 Van Horne Ave., Friday, Dec. 28, 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.

ADATH ISRAEL TRAVEL SERIES

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Travel, a 4-part mini series, sponsored by Adath Israel Sisterhood, starts Jan. 10 and continues on succeeding Thursdays, through Jan. 31.

Lectures will be given by people knowledgeable in the travel field.

These are morning sessions with breakfast at 9.30 and talks beginning at 10. Babysitting is available through advance reservation.

Lectures include, Jan. 10, How to Pack, What to Take, with **Marilyn Finkelstein,** proprietor of The Way to Go; Jan. 17, Rabbi Schild's Israel, with **Rabbi Erwin Schild,** of Adath Israel Congregation; Jan. 24, How to Get Your Money's Worth Out of Travel, with **Edith Baxter,** editor of the Canadian Travel Press and Jan. 31, Jonathan Miller's London, an outstanding film with guest lecturer **Rabbi Dow Marmur,** of Holy Blossom Temple.

Fee for the full series is $10, sisterhood members, $12, non-members. Individual lectures [subject to space availability] are $3, sisterhood, $4, non- members. For reservations call **Jennie Appleby,** 633-6520, **Bess Starr,** 488-1792, **Cheryl Sonenberg,** 731-3227.

PRE-MENSTRUAL SELF-HELP

An estimated half of all women of childbearing age suffer from pre-menstrual syndrome [PMS]. The symptoms may vary in type and severity: depression, irritability, and fluid retention are a few of more than 150 discomforts associated with PMS.

The YWCA is offering a supportive group where PMS sufferers will have a chance to share experiences, learn healthier lifestyle habits, practice stress reduction techniques and talk to experts about specific areas of interest.

The next group begins Jan. 9, 7 - 9 p.m. and continues each Wednesday through Jan. 30, at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Ave. [Yonge and St. Clair area]. Fee is $38 for 4 weeks.

Space is limited. For complete information and to register contact the YWCA, 2532 Yonge St., 487-7151.

singles

In keeping with the theme of Membership Growth, New Faces, there will be a makeup demonstration at the next meeting of the newest **Pioneer Women Na'amat** singles group [career women mid-30s to mid-40s] on Thursday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m., at 595 Brookdale Ave., apt. 704. **Elaine Waltman** of Visage, will present the program. New members are welcome. For additional information call 636-5425 days, 633-6983 evenings and weekends.

Singles, where will you be a year from now? **Jewish Singles Project Connect** is offering a series of six small weekly group meetings [Wednesday evenings] through which you can learn to make the most of who you are. To inquire further call 731-4600.

One is Also a Number, a 1-day symposium for Jewish singles, at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., Sunday, Jan. 27 , is a special gathering which, for a $25 fee, offers a keynote address, seminars on issues relevant to singles in the 80s decade, coffee break, dinner, entertainment and door prizes. Advance registration is necessary. For more information call 731-4600.

for seniors

Please note that **Beth Tzedec Friendship Group Plus 50 has cancelled both the Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 meetings. On Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 1.30 p.m., vocalist Caren Bender** "the beautiful voice in the synagogue choir"] will entertain. There will be no luncheon, but refreshments and coffee will be served. Everyone is welcome and reservations are not necessary. Cost to non-members of the club is $1.50.

North York Seniors Centre is introducing two ceramics classes starting in January. They will include handbuilding and greenware techniques and are offered on Thursday afternoons, 1 - 3, and Friday mornings 10 - noon, at the North York Seniors Centre, 1 Empress Ave., Willowdale. Co-sponsored by the outreach program of Humber College, the classes are open to anyone over the age of 55. Cost is $7 for 12 weeks. For more information call the Centre at 226-5614.

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

Come to see the touching, exceptionally well-acted comedy, Educating Rita, at the **Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living,** 1003 Steeles Ave. W., at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30. Charge for members is $1, non-members, $1.50.

at the jcc

Registration for nursery [age 3], junior kindergarten [age 4] and senior kindergarten [age 5] is now taking place at the **JCC northern branch.** Register today to avoid disappointment. Call **Rona Kaushansky,** 636-1880, ext.229.

Attention parents! Register now for the Preschool Playschool beginning in September and continuing until June 1986, Mondays to Fridays [ages 3 and 4] at the **North-East JCC** . Preschool children are exposed to a variety of stimulating activities and will gain a sense of their Judaic background. Included are weekly themes, field trips and a gym program. The ultimate goal is to make each child's attitude toward school very positive. Contact **Sarah Gayer,**889-0813 for more details.

AMBULANCE TO ISRAEL

Rabbi David Monson, right, thanks Chaim Kuflik on behalf of Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem, for the ambulance which he donated. Looking on is Fay Lichtblau, another donor, who introduced Kuflik to Shaare Zedek. Rabbi Monson is a lifetime executive member of the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation.

Finding your Roots

Genealogy becomes a "hot" hobby among Jews

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —
The hottest hobby among Jews today is Jewish genealogy, says Alan Spencer of Illinois, the editor of Search, an international quarterly publication for researchers of Jewish genealogy — tracing families.

In 1977, the modern Jewish genealogical movement was formed with the establishment of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, says Spencer, and it has rapidly spread to 18 major American cities.

Last year, Raymond Witzman of Montreal, organized Canada's first Jewish genealogical group.

In a recent edition of Search, Montreal and Ottawa sources of historical information were featured along with a study of Saskatchewan's Jewish farm colonies from 1884 to 1939.

Spencer says that when Roots was aired on TV, it created a renewed interest in family histories.

"Globally, family unity has been bombarded out of shape in our hedonistic civilization," he said. "Many, especially Holocaust survivors, are desperately seeking their roots.

"They are doing this not only for self-identification, but especially as a heritage to pass on to their children. Thus, the current interest in Jewish genealogy."

The Illinois society and its affiliate groups, sponsor seminars and act as a depository for vital records, manuscripts, old maps and historical materials for researchers and interested individuals.

One of the regular features in Search is a listing of individuals whose families are trying to locate them. As an example, Spencer has listed a long-lost relative believed to be living in the Toronto area with her husband and children.

"Her maiden name was Gitel Czennikowski, and she came from Opatow, Poland," adds Spencer.

In a column called Zuchen Mishpoche (Search for Family), which appears in each edition of Search, there are several pages of names, family backgrounds and original geographic locations of missing family members.

For $5, you can place an ad in Search which will include all the information you can submit.

The publication has a section with information about Eastern European shtetls. It also lists regional sources where archival information can be found.

Spencer says that Search, which disseminates information throughout the world, will publish a special section of sources for researchers in the Toronto area in the upcoming edition.

"We do not have a group in Toronto yet and we are anxious to organize one," he says.

Anyone interested in becoming associated with a genealogical group can write to Alan Spencer at The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, PO Box 481022, Niles, Ill. 60648, or contact Stephen Speisman, director of the archives committee, Toronto Jewish Congress, 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, M2R 3V2.

Speisman says that the TJC Archives department will act as a clearing house for information and will help people make contact with others interested in forming a genealogical group.

The Jewish Genealogical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. It is supported by individual memberships.

Will relocate in Thornhill

Ner Israel Yeshiva plans move

By
JEFF ROSEN

TORONTO —
After operating from a campus it long outgrew, the Ner Israel Yeshiva of Toronto will close its doors on its 25-year-old campus in 1985 and relocate north of the city.

Rabbi Moshe Freedman, executive vice-president of the yeshiva, said the new campus is being constructed on 20 acres of land in Thornhill to provide more modern and spacious facilities for the unique educational institution.

Ner Israel Yeshiva is one of two Jewish schools in Canada that offers a multi-faceted educational program. (The other school is in Montreal.) The yeshiva provides an intensive high school program with religious and secular training, a post high school or undergraduate program and a Kollel program. The latter is a graduate program concentrating on advanced Talmudic and Rabbinic studies.

100 students in dorm

With over 100 students living in the school's dormitory at the present location at 625 Finch Ave. W. (between Bathurst and Dufferin), the school's menahel-principal, Rabbi Aaron Levine, said there is no additional room to house the growing student population.

Freedman said the new dormitories will be able to accommodate 200 students and will allow for future expansion.

When the new campus opens next December, the new residence hall will include two study lounges, a recreation room, an infirmary, a canteen and a bookstore.

Levine said the new location will make the yeshiva a self-contained campus — something that is not possible at the moment as the yeshiva must rent gymnasium space from schools in the area. As well as including a full gym, the new campus will include such facilities as modern science labs and computer studies equipment.

Freedman said the decision was made to relocate to Bathurst St., north of Highway 7, to provide a "serene atmosphere away from the hubbub of the community."

Rabbi Naftoli Friedler, rosh hayeshiva (dean) of the yeshiva, said he was looking forward to moving to the new campus and expressed hope that it would be a productive venture.

"Best of both worlds"

"If young men are away from the tummel of the city...that will increase the opportunity for them to concentrate on their studies," he said.

Freedman added that the new location will provide the "best of both worlds" for the 80% of the students from Toronto as it will allow them to return home on the weekends.

All yeshiva high school students are required to live on campus during the week, Levine said, in order to allow students to become fully involved in the school's intensive educational environment which starts at 7.30 a.m. with prayer services and continues to well past 10 p.m. when students engage in study sessions.

Freedman said the yeshiva will seek out people associated with it to help raise the $3 million needed. As well, Freedman said, the school expects to get a donation from Joseph Tanenbaum and hopes to obtain contributions from others in the Jewish community.

Anyone interested in making a donation call 636-2360 or write Ner Israel Yeshiva, 625 Finch Ave. W. Willowdale, M2R 1N8.

MEDALS FOR SERVICE

Jack Gertzbein, left, Lawrence Feldman and Sam Sniderman, right, received Bicentennial Medals at a recent ceremony in the Ontario legislative building, Queens Park. The medal is awarded "for service to the community."

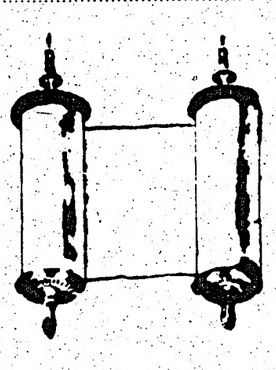
A HEARTY WELCOME

Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu with Toronto Jewish Congress President "Yitz" Feldman at a community reception held during the Chief Rabbi's recent visit to Toronto. [Graphic Artists photo]

HERE ZAIDY

Alfred Petroff, 84-year-old resident of Baycrest Terrace, and Celia Temes, 75, join their 4-year-old great granddaughter Sherry Merkur, in front of the menorah as the dynamic bubby reads her own holiday poem to a family gathering of 122 people at a Chanukah party in the home of Henry and Hinda Petroff. (Sherry's other grandfather is Max Merkur.)

Organizations and People



sparks from the torah

By
RABBI MEIR URI GOTTESMAN

Parshat Vayigash/Zot Chanukah

Not to worry. Everything works out . . . the proper time . . . the proper place.

Reb Isaac'l Charif was invited to a bris milah to serve as Sandek (the person who holds the baby during the circumcision). When it came to naming the baby, they asked the father what name was chosen. The father stood confused, the congregation waited — he had forgotten what name they had decided on.

"Name the boy Abraham," suggested Reb Isaac'l.

The father's eyes lit up: "Yes, that was just the name!" Everyone was amazed at the rabbi's prophetic spirit.

"No prophetic spirit," grumbled Reb Isaac. "I just saw the father standing there dumbly like a Terach (Abraham's father), so I concluded that the child's name should be Abraham!"

* * *

A dramatic meeting takes place in this week's parsha, Joseph, who had been sold into slavery by his brothers, reveals himself to them after 22 years. "I am Joseph your brother. . ." He orders them to go back up to their grieving father Jacob in Egypt and tell the good news: "Joseph is still alive, and ruler of Egypt. . ."

But he warned them about the trip back: "Al tirgezu baderech. . . Don't storm back home, don't overly rush!"

Why did he have to warn them? Weren't they already seasoned travelers?

But — explains Reb Menachem Mendel of Kotzk — Joseph told them: "Listen, I know that you are in a rush to go home and tell our father the good news — your son is still alive! You want to hurry, break speed limits, cut corners, take risks — just to get the happy message back faster. . .

"Don't overly rush! There is a destined time when you should return, when Jacob should hear the news. If you try to rush the time, then from Heaven they will put extra obstacles, a wheel will break — to hold you back. . ." (Otzar Chaim)

We can't rush G-d's will. There is a time for everything. There is a time when love strikes like flashing lightning and a marriage takes place. If it is destined that a person will become wealthy, it will happen just then . . . just at the appointed moment.

We can't force life. We can't rush it. We must live it. We must enjoy it. Time is precious. Every moment like a jewel to be appreciated. Mitzvahs, only mitzvahs.

One rabbi saw a Jew rushing. "Why are you in such a hurry?" he asked. "Rebbe," the man explained, "I have a wife and little children, and I'm running after a livelihood."

Asked the rabbi: "How do you know that the livelihood is in front of you that you have to run after it so hard? Maybe it's behind you, trying to catch up with you. Slow down!"

* * *

Only G-dliness has no measure and no time.

On Chanukah we commemorated and honored Chana who saw her seven sons martyred for sake of Heaven.

She was a beautiful neshama, seeking holiness. Even 2,000 years later the neshama of a Chana flashes over the seas and enters our own hearts. Her beauty, her kindness, her purity, her sancity awaken and enthrall us. Chana lives as Chanukah lives, returns in a miracle of inspiration.

Enter, neshama of Chana, and ignite our soul! Easy as ABC — Good Shabbes.

All smiles at Chanukah party

Pine Villa residents enjoy holiday

TORONTO —

The smiles on the faces of the residents of Pine Villa retirement home during its recent annual Chanukah party was sufficient proof of the event's success. For some of the 70 residents, many who come from such places as New York, Winnipeg, Sarnia, Welland and Hamilton, it was their first holiday celebration at the home.

Alderman Ben Nobleman brought greetings from City of York council.

Pine Villa's oldest resident is Charles Cappe, 93, whose son, Dave Cappe, is a well known Toronto druggist. Another resident with an interesting background is Sid Hofman, 90, who used to play with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He and his wife, Zelma (widow of the late MPP Fred Singer), met and were married at Pine Villa.

Esther Segal is the aunt of Hollywood actor Lloyd Bochner; Ida Taylor is the sister of Canadian theatre owner Nat Taylor; Raye Hillman, a former president of Toronto Hadassah, is the widow of Ben Hillman of Shiffer-Hillman; Etta Hartsman is the mother of Harriet Morton, national president of ORT; and Mrs. O. B. Roger is the widow of the former president of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

There are two blind residents, Kate Donn and Jennie Snider — the latter was once principal of the Associated Hebrew Schools.

The home recently received a New Horizons grant from the federal government and has a varied schedule of activities including movies on Thursdays, bingo on Fridays, exercise classes, dance lessons, games, crafts and music appreciation.

Pine Villa was opened in 1980 and is owned by Community Nursing Homes Ltd., whose president, Fred LaFontaine, bought a 40-room hotel in 1959 in Pickering and turned it into a nursing home.

His company now owns 16 nursing and retirement homes in Ontario with a total of 1,200 beds. It recently purchased retirement homes in London, St. Catharines and Kitchener all of which have vacancies. But Pine Villa has a waiting list.

LaFontaine believes Canada's health delivery system is far superior to that in the United States. People are in better physical and mental condition now when they retire in Canada due to better health care.

He says his philosophy is "to provide a continuity of the lifestyle senior citizens have enjoyed in their own homes."

At a Chanukah party at Pine Villa are, standing from left: Alderman Ben Nobleman, Mrs. Zelma Hoffman, Fred LaFontaine. Seated, from left are Mrs. Esther Segal, aunt of Hollywood actor Lloyd Bochner, and Sid Hoffman.

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VIII

Middle East Periodical Guide

Your directory to recent articles about Israel and the Middle East.

Current Articles

"The Arab World: Recent Developments", *Canadian Middle East Digest*, November, 1984.

CIC's *Middle East Digest* has a new look which facilitates the inclusion of an increased number of components.

In "The Arab World: Recent Developments", the editors point out that approximately every four years - usually in the aftermath of an American presidential election - there is a predictable realignment and re-formulation of coalitions in the Arab world.

This article outlines eight recent alliances among Arab countries and their implications for the peace process.

"Prophets of the Holy Land", *Harper's*, December, 1984.

Harper's invited Arabs, Israelis, and others long involved in the region to imagine scenes from the Middle East of 1994.

Possible scenarios are painted by the following individuals: Fouad Ajami, Director, Middle Eastern Studies, John Hopkin's University's School of Advanced International Studies; George Ball, former Secretary of State during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and a critic of Israeli policy; Leon Wieseltier, literatary editor, the *New Republic*, and author of **Nuclear War, Nuclear Peace**; Abba Eban, former Foreign Minister of Israel, and currently Chairman of the Knesset's Security and Foreign Affairs Committee; Conor Cruise O'Brien, former editor of the *Observer* in London, and author of **The Seige: An Outsider Looks at Zionism and Israel** to be published in the spring; Hassan Bin Talal, Crown Prince of Jordan, brother of King Hussein, and heir to the throne; Raja Shihadeh, Ramallah lawyer, and director of Law in the Service of Man, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists; Ehud Olmert, a Likud member of the Knesset's Foreign Relations Committee; and Meron Benvenisti, former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem from 1974 to 1978 and director of the West Bank Data Project.

"Letter From Israel", *Columbia Journalism Review*, November/December, 1984.

A discussion of the Israeli media from television to the major newspapers, including their styles and targeted audiences.

An interesting piece for anyone wishing to know about "news habits" of this nation of 4.5 million people with 17 daily newspapers.

READER'S SURVEY

In an effort to measure the effectiveness and future directions of this column, The Community Action For Israel Committee would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. During the past 6 months have you read an article which we've reviewed because you learned about it in this column? Yes ..... No ..... How many? .....
2. Did you mail away for any of the free trial magazine issues listed in this column? Yes ..... No ..... How many? .....
3. Do you prefer the system where a copy of a reviewed article is mailed to you by request to a Congress professional? Yes ..... No ..... Don't know .....
4. Do you have any comments about this column? .....

.....

.....

Please mail to: Sam Resnick, CAIC, 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, Ont. M2R 3V3
THANK YOU

A free copy of these articles highlighted above can be obtained by contacting the Community Action For Israel Committee, 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, Ont. M2R 3V3. Tel.: 635-2883, Attn.: Sam Resnick.

This column is sponsored by the Community Action For Israel Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region, David A. Rubin, Q.C., Chairman. Its purpose is to advise CJN readers of articles on Israel and the Middle East appearing in a variety of publications. Periodical Guide Editor: Eliot D. Sargon.

Skills training urged

OTTAWA —

The involvement of the provinces is a "crucial prerequisite" in Ottawa's attempt to solve youth unemployment, Employment and Immigration Minister Flora MacDonald said in a recent appearance before the Commons Standing Committee on Labor, Manpower and Immigration.

The problem of jobless youth needs to address urgently, MacDonald told committee members, because "many still lack training and practical experience needed in today's labor market."

"To start dealing with this situation I recently announced that we'll go ahead, on a pilot project basis, with the Youth Training Option. This should serve as a model for future action," she said.

"But provincial involvement is a crucial prerequisite for success in this area," the minister stressed. "I hope my consultations will lead to a new alliance for youth training — an alliance based on the cooperation of all our social and economic partners."

Canada must build a solid and lasting foundation for skills training to enable not only young people but also women and workers in mid-career to participate fully in the new technology society and workplace, MacDonald said.

Organizations and People

CHAT student Hatalie Lithwick presents foster children Joshua, 5, and Tanya, 9 with their Chanukah gifts at Jewish Family & Child Service's annual Chanukah party for foster children.

Foster kids enjoy joy-filled Chanukah

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

TORONTO —

For some, it was the first Chanukah celebration of their young lives. For others, it was one of many joy-filled Chanukahs.

Whichever, the 50 foster children placed in foster homes by the Jewish Family & Child Service laughed, danced, sang, ate latkes and opened gifts at the agency's 4th annual Chanukah party for foster children and their families held recently at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Inge Waldman, a foster mother who has taken 35 handicapped foster children into her home in the past 10 years, said that she was "deeply touched" by the hard work put into the party.

She added that she was most impressed by the gifts, many handmade by students of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Waldman, a warm, friendly woman, noted that because more than half of the children have special needs, CHAT students created gifts specifically geared to these children.

She pointed to 2½-year-old Miriam, a bright, alert child presently living with her. Miriam, who has little use of her arms and legs because of a disease that has stiffened them, giggled as she clutched a felt toy, covered with swatches of different fabrics that she can rub against her arms and face.

Stanley, Waldman's 8½-year-old foster son, who is confined to a wheelchair because of a lack of muscle coordination, smiled at his cheerful, handmade doll.

Parents and children alike could not help but smile at the green-haired, red-nosed clown who painted children's faces to look just like him, the bright balloons at each table and the lively Chanukah music played by Itzhak Argemon.

The infectuous music had everyone dancing to strains of Oy Chanukah, Oy Chanukah and Tzena Tzena. Children who could not dance alone because of physical disabilities were happy to dance in their parents' arms.

A touching moment came when members of each table, led by a foster father who lit a large menorah at the front of the room, lit their own small menorahs.

Shirley Feld, coordinator of foster care for JF&CS, told The CJN that it is very important to the agency that the foster children placed by them keep their Jewish ties.

With this in mind, JF&CS mailed a menorah, Chanukah candles, a dreidel, a silver dollar and the story of Chanukah to each of the approximately 50 Jewish foster children in Toronto and surrounding areas.

"Even children in treatment centres are mailed a Chanukah kit," Feld said.

Waldman said that little touches like the Chanukah kit and the Chanukah party make "all the hard work that goes with raising handicapped foster children that much easier."

CAEJ receives $15,000 grant

TORONTO —

A Wintario grant of $15,000 to the Canadian Association for Ethiopian Jews of Toronto was announced last week by Susan Fish, provincial minister of citizenship and culture.

The grant to CAEJ is for producing a videotape on the Black Jews of Ethiopia.

Another grant announced was to the Jewish Community Centre of Toronto of $5,000 to provide a series of volunteer/facilitator workshops for staff and volunteers.

The grants to the Jewish organizations were part of 16 made to multicultural and native organizations for a total of $169,066.

"I am pleased," says Fish, "that my ministry was able to respond to applications which will strengthen the community services of so many organizations."

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Edithvale houses 4 groups

Centre aids local residents

By RONA ARATO

TORONTO —

When the Edithvale Community Centre was officially opened by North York Mayor Mel Lastman recently, the mood in the overflow audience was one of ebullience and pride.

The centre is a former surplus school, which has been converted by the department of parks and recreation to cater to residents in the area bounded by Sheppard to the south, Steeles to the north, Yonge on the east, and Bathurst on the west.

"This centre is a great example of the kind of progress that can be made when the City of North York and local ratepayers work together," said Mayor Lastman. Noting the size of the crowd that filled the gymnasium and spilled out into the halls, Lastman quipped that although this was the first official event to be held in the new facility, the building already looked as if it were in need of expansion.

Lastman presented a scroll to Kathy Forristal, chairman of the Edithvale steering committee "in recognition of the many hours of hard work and dedication put in by her committee to bring the centre to fruition."

Alderman Ron Summers called the new quarters "a dream come true."

Alderman Gordon Hutchinson assured attendees that the centre "can count on us handing down the support the North York department of parks receives from city council. "I can assure you," he said, "that we will work with the residents and staff to make this centre good."

Four groups are housed in the centre permanently: The North York Arts Council, the North York Interagency Council, the North York Soccer Association and the Toronto Speech and Stroke Centre.

In addition to these full-time tenants, the facilities will be made available to any groups and agencies organizing recreation programs or community events.

The centre is equipped to accommodate events like bazaars, tournaments, dinners, lectures and meetings, recreational sports as well as small scale activities like films and children's programs.

The first floor of the facility has been made fully accessible to disabled persons.

"We've been working on this for a long time but it's been worth it," said Pat Arato, director of the Toronto Speech and Stroke Centre. Arato, who is a member of the Edithvale steering committee and founder of the stroke centre, is "overjoyed" that her group finally has the space needed to expand to a 4-day program.

For further information contact the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, phone 223-1162.

Ontario Lottery Corp. makes $216 million

TORONTO —

The Ontario Lottery Corp. continues to enjoy strong public support according to its 1983/84 annual report. This support resulted in $216 million in profit during the last fiscal year, which was turned over to the government of Ontario for public projects.

The report, recently released by Reuben Baetz, Ontario minister of tourism and recreation, showed an increase of $53 million in profits over last year's figures. The corporation operates Wintario, Lottario, Instant, Provincial, Super Loto and 6/49 within the province. The latter three games are joint ventures of all the provinces operating under the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation.

Highlights from the report include:

- Combined ticket sales of $661 million, up $111 million from the previous year.
- $341 million in prizes offered, an increase of $47 million from 1982/83.
- Operating expenses as a percentage of gross sales decreased to 8.1% from 8.8%.
- 85.3% of Ontarians have purchased a lottery ticket.
- The average lottery expenditure per month is $8.50, and the majority of players spend less than $5.

Since Ontario's lotteries began in 1975, over $1.1 billion has been generated for sports, fitness, culture, recreation, health and environmental-health research and social service agencies, the report notes.

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Organizations and People

Over $300 raised

Associated students collect funds for Ethiopia

Doreen Wicks, executive director of Global Ed/Med Supplies shows a sample blanket that was part of $100,000 worth of blankets and medical supplies shipped to Ethiopia, with the help of Associated Hebrew School students. From left: Grade 6 (room 24) students — Marnie Schaffer, Sara Bloom, Shoshana Starkman, Steve Hazout, Howard Epstein, Steven Silverberg, Monty Mazin, associated director of development and public relations, and on the board of directors of GEMS, Ben Wicks, popular cartoonist. [Ben Lechtman photo]

By
PEARL ADLER

TORONTO —

Children of the Associated Hebrew Schools responded spontaneously to a call to help finance a shipment of blankets and medical supplies to Ethiopia.

Six classes of boys and girls, 8 to 12, collected over $300 to give to Global Ed/Med Supplies Inc. (GEMS), a non-profit organization that sends discarded medical equipment and supplies to poor countries.

Doreen Wicks, executive director of GEMS, with her husband cartoonist Ben Wicks, visited the Associated Neptune branch recently and personally thanked the children for their generosity.

The children, who first learned of the present plight of the Ethiopians via the media, came to learn of the existence of GEMS from Monty Mazin, the school's director of development and public relations. Mazin is on the board of directors of GEMS, and introduced the concept and goals of the organization to some of the children, but it was they who spread the word, reacting quickly to collect money from family members and friends, with some contributing personal allowances and lunch money.

Along with collecting money, the children wrote letters of concern and support to Doreen Wicks.

Nine-year-old Leah Silber spearheaded the drive and Mrs. Wicks made each child feel special as she thanked each class.

The money collected, she explained, would help pay the shipping costs of $100,000 worth of medical supplies — 15 crates of donated supplies, including blankets, thermometers, sheets, bandages, and medicine — sent to Ethiopia to be distributed and used among small clinics which have been set up to provide for the sick and needy.

The children were reassured that Ben Wicks would travel to Ethiopia in January to await the arrival of the shipment and to supervise the distribution of the supplies.

S. America shocks doctor

MONTREAL —

Louis Novick, executive director of Maimonides Hospital Geriatric Centre, says a recent trip to South America to tour its health care facilities has left him "very happy that he lives in Quebec."

Novick was one of 17 Canadian hospital administrators selected by the Canadian Hospital Association for the 3-week tour sponsored by People to People International, an American program which brings professionals to Third World countries to share their expertise. Every U.S. president since Dwight Eisenhower has served as the program's honorary chairman.

They were taken to general hospitals and chronic care institutions in Lima, Peru; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paolo, Brazil; and Santiago, Chile.

Novick was shocked by the lack of medical equipment and supplies at most institutions. Although doctors receive good training at the medical schools in South American countries, the poverty of these nations prevents most citizens from getting proper medical care.

"People are afraid to get sick," said Novick, not because of the financial cost but out of fear of being discharged in worse shape than when they entered hospital.

"A doctor in Rio told me a patient operated on died because the surgeon did not have rubber gloves," said Novick, who personally saw three children in one bed.

The situation in the Jewish hospitals is not much better, Novick found out. A Jewish man he met told him the horrifying story of how his 77-year-old mother died at a large Jewish hospital.

She was admitted with a simple fracture of her arm. She was put to bed for 20 days, and developed pneumonia and bedsores. She was then inoculated with an improperly sterlized needle and died of the resulting infection.

A health insurance plan exists that all employees and their employers contribute to which permits almost everyone to enter a government hospital. Private insurance is also available.

Novick found that most of the patients at Jewish hospitals were not Jewish, because the Jewish community is generally financially able to go to hospitals considered to give better care.

Novick visited the large Jewish hospital in Rio and a little 33-bed institution in Buenos Aires. The latter was being expanded with the addition of six maternity beds and a surgical ward.

Gives paintings to Ontario

HAMILTON —

In honor of Ontario's bicentennial, former Israeli artist Eitan Dvir, now of Hamilton, presented two paintings to the government of Ontario recently.

Entitled Ontario Flag Celebration, one painting portrays people of various ethnic groups who compose the population of Ontario while the other is a portrait of Premier Bill Davis.

In a small ceremony at Queen's Park, Deputy Premier Robert Welsh and George Ashe, minister of government services, accepted the paintings on behalf of Premier Davis, who was unable to be present. Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship Susan Fish was prevented from attending by a bout of flu.

The painter and his wife Therese were accompanied by Mayor Bob Morrow of Hamilton.

The Separate School Board of Hamilton was originally to have commissioned the portrait of Premier Davis but changed its mind following the announcement of his resignation and both paintings were a gift from the artist.

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The dedication of the Ontario Garden in the Wohl Rose Park, Jerusalem: Left to right: the donor Louis Mayzel, Margaret Birch, MPP, Prof. H. Humber, and Mayor Teddy Kollek.

Bicentennial marked in Israel

Ontario Garden opens

By
GIL KEZWER

JERUSALEM —
The Ontario Garden, a newly developed section of this city's Wohl Rose Park, was recently dedicated in a ceremony attended by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, MPP Margaret Birch who represented Ontario Premier Bill Davis, Mrs. Vernon Turner, wife of the Canadian ambassador, and the sponsor of the garden, Louis Mayzel of Toronto.

The garden, which commemorates the province's bicentennial, is adjacent to the Canada Garden in the Garden of Nations section of the Wohl Rose Park — Israel's national rose park, which has been developed by the Jerusalem Foundation with the assistance of the Wohl family of Geneva.

The Ontario Garden will contain a representative collection of regional rose varieties, as suggested by the Canadian Rose Society. Rose bushes are to be planted in the coming year, and will climb across a specially designed rose pergola.

A fountain and pool will symbolize the natural beauty of Ontario's lakes and rivers.

A grove of 18 maple trees has been planted, symbolizing the Hebrew letters chai - life, and the autumn changing of the color of leaves will provide a unique spectacle in Israel.

Located at one of the highest points in the capital, the garden offers a view of the Knesset and the Judean Hills.

Long time friends share Munk award

TORONTO —
Two physicians who met during their hospital residency days in Toronto and developed a lasting friendship have been named co-recipients of the 1984 Nicholas M. and Hedy J. Munk Geriatric Award.

Avram M. Clarfield, and Barry J. Goldlist, will split the $10,000 award to be presented at the 10th annual Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care medical clinic day, May 17.

The announcement of the award was made by Stephen E. Rudin, executive director of Baycrest Centre, on behalf of the selection committee.

The Munk Award is offered biennially to a physician under age 40, who has demonstrated special merit in geriatrics, or whose achievements indicate future success in the field.

Dr. Clarfield is presently the director, division of geriatrics, at the Mortimer B. Davis — Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, and holds two positions at McGill University: associate professor in family medicine and assistant professor in epidemiology.

Dr. Avram Clarfield

Dr. Barry Goldlist

He will use his portion of the award during a sabbatical year in England and Israel where he said, he "will learn from my exposure to the geriatric services of both countries."

Dr. Goldlist is currently the director of the acute geriatric unit at Toronto Western Hospital and an assistant professor in the department of medicine at the University of Toronto.

Her plans to use his share of the award to observe the comprehensive Geriatric Service at the Royal Postgraduate School, Hammersmith Hospital, in London. He feels that the knowledge he gains will help him improve services for the elderly in the central-west section of Toronto.

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Beth Jacob to begin plans for its centennial

By
MOURA WOLPERT

HAMILTON —
As Beth Jacob Synagogue prepares to enter its second century in 1986, past president Marvin Rosenshein has made it his business to see to it that when the synagogue celebrates its 100th anniversary, it will do so debt free.

Although Beth Jacob is Hamilton's second oldest and second largest congregation, it is also the least known. The oldest is Temple Anshe Sholom, founded in 1863 and said to be Canada's oldest Reform congregation; the youngest is the Orthodox Adas Israel congregation, formed in 1914.

The temple is the largest, with a membership of approximately 480 families, Beth Jacob comes close behind with about 465 families and Adas Israel has about 400.

Now Hamilton's only Conservative congregation, Beth Jacob came into being in 1883 when a number of members broke away from Anshe Sholom to form their own more Orthodox minyan. Although it received its charter in 1887 — to be known as Kahal Kodesh Bais Jacob — the synagogue dates its actual foundation from 1886,

Marvin Rosenshein

when it purchased its own cemetery site.

Services were held in two rented locations before the congregation moved into its own building at Hunter and Park in 1888, where it remained until it moved to its present site on Aberdeen Ave. in 1954.

It was during the early 50s that the congregation slowly moved away from its Orthodox orientation towards its current Conservative position, and in 1955 Beth Jacob affiliated with the Conservative United Synagogue of America.

By coincidence, 1986 also marks the 20th anniversary of the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Israel Silverman. Among his predecessors were Rabbis Jacob Green, Abraham Simon and Eugene Wiener. Silverman's wife Gloria has been principal of the religious school for the past six years.

And celebrating his 10th anniversary with Beth Jacob in 1986 will be cantor David Bercovici, who replaced Henry Zimmerman in 1976.

While newly elected president Morris Smurlick is "in the midst of forming a committee to formulate plans" for celebrating of the anniversary, Rosenshein, who was made honorary chairman of the board after serving two terms as president, has been appointed chairman of the debt elimination committee.

Rosenshein hopes to achieve his goal by the end of January and gratefully acknowledges "a matching donation of up to $150,000 from a devoted (but unnamed) Beth Jacob family."

The synagogue, he says, "has been so good for some people for so many years that it's our turn to do something for our synagogue" and so far, he adds, he has been "overwhelmed by the response."

Rosenshein admits he's "putting my heart and soul" into his present task. His late father, Samuel Ben Rosenshein, served as gabbai for many years, he explains, and "his greatest joy was coming to shul twice a day. I used to accompany him . . . and I love it dearly."

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PIONEER WOMEN - NA'AMAT invite your inquiries about our membership and activities: **636—5425.**

Ventured into Everest Valley

Search for adventure leads doctor to Himalayas

By
JEFF ROSEN

BRAMPTON, Ont. — Sometimes when you least expect it, a chance encounter will lead to a challenging adventure, as Dr. Lorne Langer discovered when a routine treatment of a mountain climber led to his joining an expedition to the Himalayas.

As the 29-year-old family physician related, he was working in the emergency department at Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton last spring when a man came in with a sprained thumb. Noticing the patient browsing through a book on mountaineering, Langer commented on how beautiful the pictures were.

Langer said that the man explained he was part of the Ontario Himalayan Mountaineering Expedition, sponsored by Ontario businesses, and that they were looking for a doctor with trauma experience to accompany them.

Although lacking mountaineering experience, Langer said, he had plenty of trauma experience from working at the hospital and was willing to participate.

"I like to experience things which could potentially broaden my horizon," Langer said, going over the number of new "experiences" he has taken part in, including the 1977 Maccabiah Games, white-water rafting and wind-surfing.

"As long as I'm young and healthy I feel I should try as many things as I can," he added.

While the other members of the group were experienced mountain climbers and knew each other prior to the expedition, Langer said he fit in very quickly and began to train by walking up 25 flights of stairs carrying a backpack.

Departing Toronto in late September, the members of the expedition headed to Katmandu, the capital of Nepal, where they stopped for a week while obtaining needed supplies and permits.

Moving on from Katmandu, the 12-man team began their trek into the Himalayas to Chobutse.

On reaching the 16,000-foot mark, Langer said, they divided into two groups with the "climbers" continuing on to Chobutse's more hazardous 23,000 foot summit, while the "trekkers" began to scale a 20,000 foot mountain named Ramadang.

Langer said the climbers made it to within 400 feet of the summit before being forced to turn back by "treacherous" conditions.

His group of trekkers made it to within 600 feet of Ramdang before being forced to stop. Langer said at that point they were on a glacier and it had been snowing heavily for two days.

"We were afraid it would avalanche."

Looking back on the expedition, Langer said it was a magnificent experience.

"It was a test at times where one had to reach down deep within oneself to continue climbing...an education in terms of seeing the most fantastic natural sights in the world."

Dr. Lorne Langer

While in the Himalayas, the expedition also found time to venture into the Everest Valley where they climbed Kala Pater, a 19,000-foot mountain with no snow.

Standing at the summit of that "hill," Langer said he was awed by the sight of the highest mountain in the world — Mount Everest — which towers over all humanity at 29,028 feet.

While the unmarried doctor has fond memories of his journey, he said that if he were to take another two months off from his medical practice, he would not return to the Himalayas. Instead, he said, he would seek out some other new experience — such as taking a safari.

"Poor country-rich people" must change: broadcaster

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — Israel is "a poor country with rich people, "but all that will have to change as the economy undergoes a much-needed revolution, says Israeli television news anchorman Chaim Yavin.

Yavin has been selected by Israeli finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i as this year's emissary for State of Israel Bonds' Operation Maccabee. He spoke to a group of Bonds supporters at a recent luncheon at the Montefiore Club.

The national unity government's 3-month freeze on wages and prices is already producing positive results, said Yavin. The inflation rate for November was 17% rather than the 30-40% predicted, and December's rate is projected at about 12%.

Although wages have gone down, so have prices, (staple food prices have dropped 30%). The freeze has been so successful, said Yavin, that the government is considering extending it another three months.

But this measure is only "first aid," according to Yavin. What is needed is an immediate cut in the budget of the government and a restructuring of the work force. The government is the largest employer in Israel, he said, which means, hundreds of thousands of people are producing nothing."

The Israeli economy must expand its industrial output if it is to increase its exports and receive the dollars it needs, said Yavin. Today, Israel's foreign reserves have fallen below $2 billion.

Israel's crumbling economy is today a greater source of worry than security, he said, describing the crisis as "the Yom Kippur War of the economy." He predicted however that Israel will emerge stronger from this current crisis.

For too long, he said, Israelis "lived like millionaires," exchanging their shekels for dollars on the black market and spending their money on luxury items because, with 1,000% inflation, their pay checks were soon almost worthless. Indexation and the government's continued high level of social services cushioned the blow of inflation for most Israelis.

Israeli television news anchorman Chaim Yavin, centre, with Montreal Israel Bonds chairman Norman Spector, left, and Mel Dobrin, chairman of the Food and Allied Industries Division.

Yavin said the government must cut its budget by about 10%. This retrenchment will be felt most acutely in the fields of education and defence. "Israel will be less powerful (militarily). But the army has become fat since Lebanon; it will be cut in size. We will have less tanks, less aircraft and less soldiers."

Israel cannot allow what many Western countries have — high unemployment as a means to countering inflation. "After three years in the military, if a man cannot get a job in Israel, he will find one elsewhere. No government of Israel can allow this."

Israel, he indicated, can use all the help it can get from abroad at this time. Yavin said "it is the duty of all people concerned about Israel to invest in its high technology and export industries."

New JDC president presents challenges

NEW YORK — The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee adopted a budget of $47.3 million and elected Heinz Eppler of Palm Beach, Fla., as president at its recent 70th annual meeting. Henry Taub, whom Eppler succeeded as president, was elected chairman of the board.

JDC executive vice-president Ralph Goldman reported that nearly half a million people in 30 countries overseas were helped by JDC's welfare, health, education or other programs.

More than 200 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the United States and Canada attended the day-long session. The meeting was followed by a dinner honoring Taub, and which saw the installation of Eppler as president.

In his remarks, Taub stressed the concept of community that kept the Jewish people alive and united through 2,000 years of dispersion and persecution. Referring to events in Israel during the past year, he noted that budget cuts were affecting social programs, creating a challenge JDC must help meet.

He expressed gratification that Prime Minister Peres is giving top priority to solving the country's economic problems.

Goldman, said in his report that the budget for 1985, "would just about help the JDC maintain its current level of assistance." He also reported on JDC involvement in the relief operations in Ethiopia.

"Since the JDC opened its mailbox to the Jewish communities for special contributions for Ethiopia relief, we have received cash or pledges totaling half a million dollars," Goldman said. "Of that amount," he added, "$100,000 came from the Central British Fund-World Jewish Relief, a philanthropic agency of the British Jewish community."

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Requirement for students

More native Israelis getting into volunteerism

TORONTO —

Until recently, the majority of volunteers at Israeli institutions were "anglo-saxons," immigrants from North America, Western Europe and South Africa. Now, the picture is changing and more native Israelis are becoming volunteers, according to Tzvia Glatt, director of volunteer services at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

In Toronto recently on a private visit, Mrs. Glatt nevertheless took time out to speak to the Beth Sholom Seniors, the executive board of the Beth Sholom Sisterhood, the Toronto Women's Division of the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation and the board of directors of the Foundation.

Shaare Zedek has a complement of 400 volunteers, 70 of whom are National Service girls who opt for this type of work in lieu of entering the Israel Defence Forces.

Glatt is particularly pleased that the Israel department of education has recognized the importance of volunteering and has issued a directive, as of three years ago, that students cannot achieve their matriculation without a specified number of hours of volunteering work.

"Different areas have different numbers of hours as a requirement," she added, "and some schools comply more readily than others. But the idea is excellent and it's a marvelous way to introduce youngsters to the idea that they've got to help out in the community."

Shortly before she left for Canada, Glatt was given a hand-made afghan by one of her volunteers in appreciation for having been given the privilege of serving the hospital.

"The woman told me I saved her life," Glatt explained. "She had been forced into early retirement by the company she worked for and was at a complete loss as to what to do with her time. Assisting in our emergency department a few days a week was her salvation.

"Because of our economic situation, many people are being asked to take early retirement and then they're stuck with all this time on their hands. Consequently, they're becoming volunteers and I'm really delighted that so many are coming to Shaare Zedek. In fact we had over 200 applicants for the National Service positions and I could take only 70 girls."

Many of the volunteer programs at Shaare Zedek have evolved through Glatt's friendship with Renee Fleishman, head of volunteers at Toronto's Mt. Sinai Hospital. Shaare Zedek's volunteers are an integral part of the institution and have been so recognized by the hospital union.

One program that Glatt is particularly proud of is one which she has arranged with the Jerusalem department of criminal justice. First offenders who are considered non-dangerous and truly non-criminal are given the option of doing volunteer work in lieu of being incarcerated in jail. Now into its fourth year, the program has seen close to 400 people achieve their goals.

"Many of the people involved are teenagers," Glatt says, "and if they are not given this chance to straighten themselves out, they might become criminals in time. If they complete the number of hours assigned to them and if I give them a good report, their records are cleansed and no one need know what happened. Then they can go back to school or into the army or get a job just like everyone else. The program has been very successful, both for us and for the justice department."

While approximately 30% of Shaare Zedek's patients are Arabs, the hospital has only one Arab volunteer, "so far," says Glatt. The volunteer's child is a pediatric dialysis patient at the hospital and he feels he must give back to Shaare Zedek something of himself in appreciation for the care his child is receiving.

In addition to working in the emergency department, the father has co-written with a Shaare Zedek urologist and translated into Arabic a handbook on kidney disease and dialysis for other parents of children with this problem.

Shaare Zedek's summer program for foreign students is also popular and, for the past several summers, Canadians have far outnumbered students from other countries.

Hanka Bienstock, a Montrealer whose son lives in Toronto, has been at Shaare Zedek for the past year working as a full time volunteer in the new gift shop.

"What's especially gratifying about the students' response to Shaare Zedek," Glatt adds, "is the fact that they must pay their own way and cover their own living expenses in Israel. We provide them with a uniform, one meal a day and our deepest gratitude."

For information on Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Center, contact The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation at 781-3584 in Toronto, 486-7301 in Montreal or 284-6620 in Winnipeg.

Food retailing pioneer Nathan Steinberg dies

MONTREAL —

Nathan Steinberg, vice-chairman of the board and senior vice-president of Steinberg Inc., the supermarket chain, died recently after a lengthy illness. He was 76.

A pioneer of the Canadian food retailing industry, Mr. Nathan — as employees affectionately called him — remained active until his death in the company founded in 1917 by his mother, Ida Steinberg.

Throughout the food industry in North America, Nathan Steinberg's reputation was synonymous with excellence, said a company spokesman.

"His commitment to the highest standards of quality in food products and his personal involvement with growers and producers, notably in Quebec, and in the attainment of such goals endeared him and earned their lifelong friendship."

Steinberg began his career with the company at an early age. He helped his mother and brothers in the store after school and on holidays. After he finished school, he worked in the stores in various capacities until he rose to the position of vice-chairman of the Board. He is credited with playing a key role in the development of the company into one of Canada's largest retailing organizations.

Steinberg was active in a variety of community groups. He served as chairman of the commercial division of the Federated Appeal of Greater Montreal (now called Centraide), president of the Quebec Safety League, governor of the YM-YWHA, director of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society and of the Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation Centre, and honorary vice-president of the Boy Scouts of Canada. He was a member of the Rotary Club.

Steinberg was decorated for promoting trade relations between France and Canada, and was the first non-citizen of France to be honored as Officer de l'ordre de l'economie nationale. In 1965, he received an honorary fellowship from Bar-Ilan University. He was also awarded the Centennial Medal by the Canadian government.

He was honorary consultant and a director of the Canadian Corporation for Expo 67, and the exposition's administrator of concessions and licensing.

Steinberg is survived by his wife Anne and sons Lewis, president of Multi Restaurants Inc., a Steinberg subsidiary; Arnold, executive vice-president, finance and development, of Steinberg; and Murray, president of Murray Steinberg Ltd. His sister Lily Rafman and brothers Jack and Morris Steinberg.

His brothers Sam [illegible] Max predeceased hi[illegible]

Cost of vacations won't be affected

TORONTO —

"The current Israel economic crisis will in no way affect the cost of holidays to Israel in 1985" was the heartening news given by Jonathan Harpaz, director of The Israel Government Tourist Office in Canada.

Harpaz was speaking at the first in a series of regular monthly Israel Update meetings sponsored by The Canadian Zionist Federation, designed to keep the community informed of current concerns and interests relating to Israel.

Responding to a number of questions put by the audience, Harpaz was optimistic that there would be direct flights to Israel from Toronto in the near future, but balked at the suggestion that the Israel Government Tourist Office should act as a singles' introduction agency so that advantage could be taken of lower rates for double rooms.

Tammy Latner, director of the CZF Israel Program Centre, gave details of various summer programs in Israel specifically designed for youth.

Max Goody was chairman of the evening's program.

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Open Houses are your opportunity to fully understand your assessment and to evaluate its equity.

Open Houses are held in every municipality at convenient times and locations, to provide you with the opportunity to discuss your assessment with staff of the Regional Assessment Office.

An assessor will be pleased to explain the basis of your property assessment and is authorized to amend any information as may be necessary prior to the delivery of the Assessment Roll to your municipality.

If you have any questions but are unable to attend the Open House, please contact your Regional Assessment Office at the address or telephone number shown below.

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Property owners and tenants will receive an Assessment Notice ***only if information regarding their property or assessment was changed during the past year, if the assessment was appealed last year, or if the property has been reassessed under section 63 of the Assessment Act***. If you receive an Assessment Notice, it may reflect changes you have requested in your school support designation, in the amount of your assessed value, or other recorded information on last year's Notice.

Appeal Procedure

If, after attending your local Open House, you are still dissatisfied with your assessment, you have a right to appeal it to the Assessment Review Board. The Assessment Review Board conducts informal hearings and is responsible for determining whether the assessment under appeal is fair and equitable with the assessments of similar properties in the vicinity or neighbourhood, and may alter your assessment accordingly.

Appeal Deadline

The final date for appealing your assessment is February 12, 1985.

Your appeal must be forwarded, either on a Notice of Appeal Form or as a letter, to the Regional Registrar of the Assessment Review Board on or before February 12, 1985, noting your property address, Roll Number and the reason for the appeal.

To assist you in this regard, Notice of Appeal forms and the address of the Regional Registrar of the Assessment Review Board are available at Open Houses, your Regional Assessment Office, or your municipal office.

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CITY OF ETOBICOKE and CITY OF YORK
Regional Assessment Office
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8:30 am to 8:00 pm each day
January 12th – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Arts

Eban explains Jews to "confused" world

BY
SHELDON KIRSHNER

A cornucopoia of recently-published books on a variety of subjects...

* * *

Abba Eban, Israel's articulate former foreign minister, is an ardent student of Jewish history.

My People (Random House, $14.95), his 1968 bestseller which has been reissued, redounds to his credit.

"My vocation has been to explain the Jewish people to a confused and often uncomprehending world," he writes. Eban does so capably in this general narrative which is profusely illustrated.

The Holocaust, by now, has been thoroughly documented, so much so that the subject becomes tiresome at times.

The following volumes, however, convey a certain freshness.

Childhood (Lester & Orpen Dennys, $15.95) is a touching fictional account of a little boy's travails. Simply written by Jona Obserski, a Dutch Jew who emerged from the horrors of Bergen-Belsen, it offers a reader a refreshingly different vision of the Holocaust.

Determined (Bloch, $15.95), by contrast, treats the Holocaust through the medium of oral testimonies.

Author Benjamin Balshone uses his material to good effect to relate the stories of Hungarian Jews who came face to face with death in the hellish days when the German Nazis and their Arrow Cross collaborators were running wild.

Marginal Notes (Lester & Orpen Dennys, $12.95) is an eclectic collection of essays by Toronto's inconoclastic journalist and playwright, Rick Salutin.

Salutin, whose tone is invariably serious, if not solemn, casts a perceptive eye on Canadian culture, working class figures, the Third World, Canadian Jewry and Israel.

His workmanlike pieces appeal to the intellect rather than to the emotions, though some readers may foam at the mouth after reading him.

Penguin Canada has launched a series of paperbacks introducing both new and established writers from Canada (and the world).

Norman Levine, one of this country's better novelists, is represented by Champagne Barn, which contains 23 strongly autobiographical short stories. Levine's prose is so lean as to make Ernest Hemingway verbose.

The Thrill of the Grass, by W.P. Kinsella, probes the glories — and degradations — of baseball and the men who earn their living by the game.

Novellas are pertinent

The Pool in the Desert offers graphic insights into the lives of women in colonial India who defy convention. Originally published in 1903, these novellas are sharp and pertinent.

We all need a little laughter to keep despair at bay, and The Leacock Medal Treasury (Lester & Orpen Dennys, $11.95) fills the bill rather handsomely.

Who can resist the likes of Robert Thomas Allen, W.O. Mitchell, Richard Needham, Morley Torgov, Don Bell or Sondra Gotlieb?

Containing works from winners since 1947, this volume is like a powerful ray of sunshine on a gray, melancholy day.

Larry Zolf, Canada's resident jokester, is a funny man who can write.

Survival of the Fattest (Key Porter Books, $19.95), his irreverent poke at the Canadian Senate, should jolt a few souls.

"The Senate," he declares in no uncertain terms, "has got to go." One suspects, though, that Zolf wouldn't mind getting his teeth into the trough.

Just Watch Me (James Lorimer) is Zolf's respectful, but amusing, portrait of Pierre Elliot Trudeau and the era which spawned him.

His chapter on Trudeau's sponsorship of Jews to the highest reaches of government will probably be noted by future historians.

The Group of Seven created Canada's first mainstream movement in painting, with men like A.Y. Jackson and Tom Thomson brilliantly capturing the essence of Canada's rugged landscapes in their paintings.

The Best of the Group of Seven (Hurtig, $19.95) recalls their achievements through informative essays by Joan Murray, an Ottawa gallery director, and Lawren Harris, a member of the group.

The 53 color plates pay homage to their artistic eloquence.

A Taste of Toronto (Hounslow Press, $8.95) is a strange creature, being part cookbook and part travelogue.

One imagines that a tourist who enjoys interesting sites and good food might enjoy Helen Duckworth's guide.

Hollywood has had its share of heavies, who've scared, maybe even petrified, scores of movie buffs.

The Great Book of Movie Villains (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, $20.95) carries information about 250 of cinema's most evil characters to the nth degree.

Harry Truman emerged from relative obscurity to become President. Robert Ferrel, a professor of history at Indiana University, takes a searching look at him in Truman (Penguin Canada, $29.95), on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

About half a dozen adventurers have died ignominously in the quest for a king's ransom, allegedly buried on Oak Island, off Nova Scotia.

Oak Island: The World's Greatest Treasure Hunt (Hounslow Press, $6.95) is a fairly good account of the dreamers who've risked life and limb to find Captain Kidd's mythical booty.

Devoted to Judaism

Peerce was a great tenor

By
RICK KARDONNE

A great Jew is by definition a great man-of-the-world. This statement is especially applicable to Jan Peerce, one of the greatest operatic tenors, who was simultaneously one of the greatest Jewish liturgical artists and consistently identified himself proudly with traditional Jewish life.

His death at the age of 80 last week leaves a large void in both opera and Jewish circles that will be exceedingly difficult to fill in the near future.

Space does not allow one to list the full details of Peerce's long and varied distinguished career, but a few of the highlights are in order.

He was born into immigrant family in New York's lower east side during the peak of Jewish immigration — an environment, which he once said, was "poor, but we didn't know it at the time."

Jan Peerce as Tevye.

Nurtured by a rich family musical tradition, he initially worked as an orchestral violinist and made his singing debut with the NBC Symphony under Toscanini. From there he made many Radio City Music Hall broadcasts and was accepted by the Metropolitan Opera in which he became a major fixture. This continued into the late 1960s when a back injury forced him to resign.

He appeared with leading opera companies around the world, including those of Vienna, Munich and San Francisco, as well as performing in solo recitals practically everywhere of note. He starred in four films and recorded for at least four major record companies. His greatest record hit was Bluebird of Happiness.

Yet simultaneously, Peerce established himself as being one of the major Jewish liturgical and popular vocal artists of this century. Besides being one of the major Broadway and touring Tevyes in Fiddler on the Roof, Peerce annually officiated at High Holiday and Pesach seder services in the Catskill and South Florida resorts, and increasingly associated himself with chassidic functions in his later years. One of the latter brought him to Toronto in 1974 where I was most fortunate to have had the privilege of interviewing him for The CJN. In 1977, I again interviewed him for The CJN and MTV.

I found Peerce to be intelligent, level-headed and affable. He firmly believed that a Jewish cultural renaissance in North America's post-war generation was inevitable.

He emphasized that his traditional Jewish background was the dominant driving force behind his operatic success, and in 1977, he told me that a strong source of inspiration was New York's scholar Rabbi Moshe Feinstein.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment of his later years was the failure of a Broadway musical about Jewish turn-of-the-century immigrant life — Laugh a Little, Cry a Little — to get off the ground. He was to star in the musical and it was one of the dearest projects to his heart.

Jan Peerce will be sorely missed by all. But let his spirit live on, demonstrating the fact that one can reach the pinnacles of artistic success and yet live an affirmatively Jewish life.

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Tale long on philosophical reflections

Author projects a bleak vision of the human condition

books

By BERNARD BASKIN

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, by Milan Kundera. Fitzhenry and Whiteside, $21.95.

The author of this widely-acclaimed novel was a 21-year-old student when Communism engulfed Czechoslovakia. The son of a famous pianist, he worked as a laborer and jazz musician and devoted himself to literature and film.

His novel, The Joke, was a mordant critique of the poliical tyranny of a hapless Communist bureaucracy. When the gallant Czech attempt at "Socialism with a human face" under Dubcek was crushed by the Russian invasion in 1968, Kundera was outlawed from his country's cultural life.

In 1975, when life at home became intolerable, he emigrated to Paris. Some years later the repressive Czech regime responded to the publication of his novel, The Book of Laughter and Forgetting by revoking his citizenship.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Kundera, victim of stupidity and inhumanity, should project a bleak vision of the human condition. As he makes clear, if God is dead and man is unable to replace Him then life inevitably loses its weight and substance. What is left is the unbearable lightness of being.

The prime figure in this book is a busy Prague surgeon who undergoes a series of trials and tribulations, not unlike those suffered by the author. Tomas refuses to cooperate with the Russian invaders and quickly loses his friends, status and position. He becomes a lowly and despised window washer.

At the book's core or centre is the dilemma of how one maintains personal integrity and adherence to ideals in the face of powerful compulsions from without and agonizing doubts from within.

Tomas marries after a brief courtship but proves unfaithful. He is torn between love for his wife and a feckless libertinism. "When his friends asked him how many women he had had in his life, he would try to evade the question, and when they pressed him further he would say, "Well, two hundred, give or take a few. That's not so many," he said by way of self-defence. "I've been involved with women for about twenty-five years now. Divide two hundred by twenty-five and you'll see it comes to only eight or so new women a year. That's not so many, is it?"

Kundera delights in paradox — especially the essential identity of opposites — as he places his characters in a society that robs them of their humanity. "The history of the Czechs and of Europe is a pair of sketches from the pen of mankind's fateful inexperience. History is as light as individual human life, unbearably light, light as a feather, as dust swirling into the air, as whatever will no longer exist tomorrow."

Divided into many brief sections, the book juxtaposes such diverse and distant places as Switzerland, France, Thailand and the United States.

The Unbearable Lightness of Being is short on plot and character development, but long on playful philosophical reflections, and stylistic devices that often involve explicit sensual imagery. The death of a pet dog — a metaphor perhaps for the decline of a once healthy society — occupies 22 pages of discussion and speculation of this relatively slender work.

Readers receptive to an unusual and experimental novel of ideas that brilliantly introduces and explores abstract concepts and evokes a world of unexpected insights and images will find The Unbearable Lightness of Being a rewarding and stimulating challenge.

Agnes of God introduces conflict of ideas concept

By FRANK RASKY

TORONTO —

In the first act of Agnes Of God, the harrowing drama at the Bathurst Street Theatre, the mother superior of a convent asks sarcastically, "Well, are you trying to prove that she's totally bananas or slightly off-centre?"

The question is posed to a court-appointed psychiatrist investigating the sanity of a 21-year-old nun charged with murdering her newborn baby.

Part murder mystery and part psychodrama, this powerful, prize-winning Broadway hit by Roman Catholic playwright John Pielmeier actually poses profound questions of equal relevance to Jews.

It's a mentally stimulating play of the sort that intrigued George Bernard Shaw when he wrote Saint Joan. Instead of the conflict of emotions, it presents theatrically the conflict of ideas — pitting religious faith against the so-called science of psychiatry, the struggle between the mystic and the realist.

The hard-fact skeptic here is the psychiatrist (played with trenchant understatement by veteran Toronto actress Roberta Maxwell).

She is a chain-smoking, lapsed Catholic, locked in a struggle for the truth with the mother superior (also beautifully played by veteran Saskatchewan actress (Shirley Douglas), a stalwart defender of the church and advocate of the saint-like innocence of the young nun.

In a sense, they're wrestling for the soul of Agnes (played convincingly by Toronto actress Anna Louise Richardson) a blend of passionate religious hysteric and sweet-faced, childlike mystic, who sings her sorrows in a haunting, angelic voice.

Jon Michaelson has directed their intense duel on a spartan stage set, totally stark except for two chairs and two ashtrays. Relieved by flashes of intermittent wit, their combat gripped my attention thoroughly.

I can hardly wait to see the movie version, currently being shot on location in Guelph and Toronto, directed by Norman Jewison and starring Jane Fonda as the psychiatrist.

For ticket information, phone 530-1297.

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By VIVIENNE MUHLING 481–6434

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* * *

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* * *

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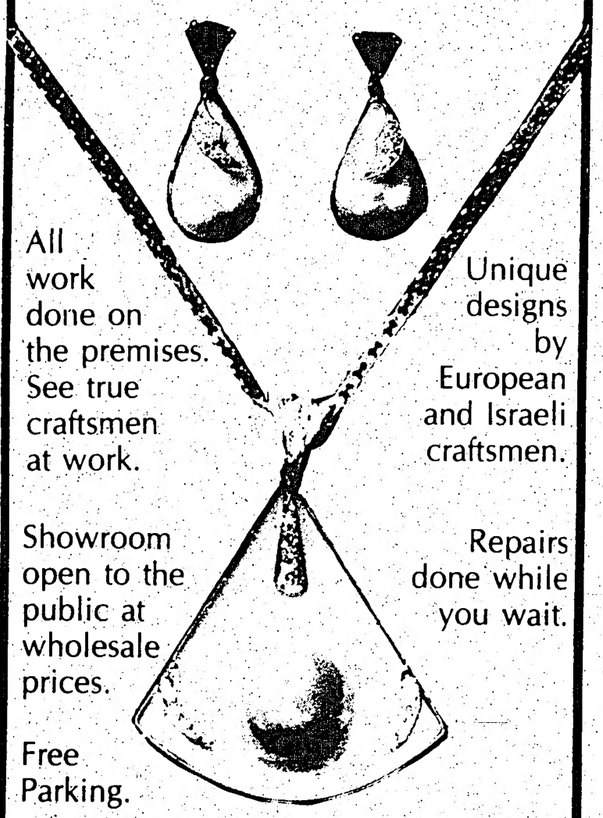

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Arts

Concert to be held in Israel

World Jewish Song Festival contest seeking entries

music

By RICK KARDONNE

The 5th annual World Jewish Song Festival is now accepting songs on a Jewish theme. Both lyrics and music must be original and unpublished.

Entries may be submitted in any one of the following five languages: Hebrew, English, French, Yiddish or Ladino.

All entries must include lyrics, lead sheets, cassette recording, duly filled out registration forms and certified check or money order remitting the registration fee of $10 ($5 in Israel and South America), payable to the Quebec-Israeli Folk Arts Council.

Each application may include several songs by the same composer, but different composers must apply separately. No material will be returned.

First prize is $1,000, followed by awards of $500, $300 and $200 respectively (all in Canadian currency).

Of all the songs submitted, 12 finalists will be selected by a panel of judges to be performed at the World Jewish Song Festival Concert where the winners will be chosen. Finalists who wish to attend the concert, to be in Israel, must do so at their own expense.

Deadline for all entries is midnight, March 31. Songs arriving after the deadline will be entered automatically in the 6th World Jewish Song Festival.

Send all entries to producer Peter Smolash, 5025 avenue Plamondon, Montreal, Quebec H3W 1E9. Contest sponsor is The Jacobson Foundation for Jewish Culture, Halifax B3H 1Y5.

* * *

The Flanders Ballet, now under the direction of Soviet-Jewish emigre Valery Panov, will be performing in Israel this spring under the auspices of the Bat-Dor Dance Company, which will tour Belgium in reciprocity.

Israel is now the hottest spot on the international dance circuit, as more major international companies have performed there in 1984 than in New York.

* * *

To fill the Beth Tzedec sanctuary with its capacity of roughly 2,500 paying customers at any occasion is a major achievement. To have filled it for a program of entirely local talent, namely the Toronto cantors, as was the case recently for the Toronto Council of Hazzanim and supporting synagogue choirs annual concert, is not only remarkable, but also debunks the notion that "in Toronto, only foreign acts sell."

This concert was as good as what could be seen today anywhere else in the world in terms of liturgical music, because some of the Toronto cantors are as good as those anywhere else in the world. They are attracted here because of Toronto's physical attractiveness and by the vitality of the local Jewish cultural scene, which was amply exemplified by the high standards demonstrated by at least two of the supporting choirs: those of Beth Tikvah and Beth Tzedec.

While there were many highlights which deserve salutation and evoked enthusiastic audience response, if one had to choose a paragon of choral skill and coordination with the soloist, that selection would probably have been the performance of L. Low's Uvashofar Gadol (High Holy Day Liturgy) by Cantor Efraim Sapir supported by the Beth Tikvah choir under Srul Irving Glick. It was a effortless choral rendition of slightly unconventional vocal harmonies, in a ebb-flow dramatic fashion.

The same combination returned to perform Glick's original Tsur Chayeinu.

Another stunning choral number was S. Kalib's Birkat Kohanim by the Beth Tzedec Chor-Choral Group under Gordon Kushner backing resident Cantor Paul Kowarsky.

Most improved voice over the past few years, thanks to admirable compassionate fluidity, is that of Cantor Thomas Schwartz. Hesh Mayersdorf's solo rendition of M. Stern's Ribono Shel Olam was starkly powerful, while Cantors Louis Danto and David Bagley's duo-renditions of two chassidic numbers established memorably melodic spirited harmonies.

New Israeli film production object of interest, controversy

By CARL ALPERT

JERUSALEM —

Beyond the Walls, a new full-length Israel film production, is already a major object of interest and controversy.

On the one hand, it won the prize as best film at the Venice International Film Festival, and is being prominently mentioned as an Oscar contender. Critics in Israel have hailed it as perhaps the best film ever made here, a genuine breakthrough to high international standards.

On the other hand, it has been condemned as being "pro-Arab," and Meir Kahane's followers have noisily picketed local showings.

On the surface, Beyond the Walls is a classical tale of the brutality of life behind prison walls, except that in this instance there is a complicating factor: the inmates are Jews and Arabs, who hate each other, and find common cause only in their hatred of the prison system and the corrupt warden.

The casting and the characterizations would appear to lend substance to the accusations against the picture. The leader of the Jewish prisoners is a bank robber, excitable, dark, brooding, a mean and vicious looking criminal. The leader of the Arabs, though admittedly a terrorist, is tall, handsome, blue-eyed, classically heroic in manner. Is this a deliberate attempt to confound accepted stereotypes?

The hostility between the two groups crackles throughout, and several times approaches a breaking point. The explosion, when it does come, however, is directed against the prison administration. The two groups, reluctantly at first, find themselves united against a common enemy. The story is tense and well developed, down to the climax which reaches no clear or specific conclusion.

The Hebrew title really means Behind Bars, but the English version provides a symbolic suggestion that the unity of purpose which Jews and Arabs found under these circumstances in prison, could somehow be achieved also "beyond" or outside the walls.

Cinema laurels aside, will the picture be good for Israel? Will viewers overseas be affected by the presentation of an ugly side of Israel's society, and tend to look upon the brutality and corruption of prison life, with its murders, its drug addictions and its homosexual animalism, as typical of life and standards in Israel as a whole? Or will they come away with the feelings that some of the domestic critics have expressed?

The critic of Maariv wrote that "we are all imprisoned together in a common situation, and sooner or later we shall discover that the others are not animals, but human beings like us; if we truly will it, we can learn to live together."

To The Jerusalem Post the picture is an allegory — a message of "peace and understanding." Where films are often "pessimistic concerning human behavior, or critical, desperate, angry or frustrated . . . very rarely are they hopeful . . . which is what Beyond the Walls manages to be and quite successfully."

Problems never solved

Uri Barbash, the director, told Yediot Ahronot that he did intend symbolism, to the effect that "we in Israel are in a prison of our own making — a prison of prejudices and group hatreds."

No problems are solved in the finale, but Barbash intends to convey an upbeat note. Common cause "is our hope in this country," he says. Yet Yediot cannot refrain from wondering why in general the Arabs are presented as positive characters, though we know they are terrorists sentenced for killing women and children, while the Jewish prisoners are for the most part negative and unpleasant.

A word of caution to the overseas viewers. The language on the Hebrew sound track is in prison idiom, but for some reason the English sub-titles, at least those shown in Israel, descend to vulgarity and gutter coarseness far in excess of the original. Was this supposed to make the picture conform to avant-garde requirements? Or is it simply recognition of the fact that the Hebrew language is deficient in a variety of such expressions?

At any rate, Beyond the Walls packs enough intrinsic punch without making it necessary to resort to this sort of cheapness.

Audiences overseas will soon have opportunity to see the picture, which is being distributed by Warner Brothers.

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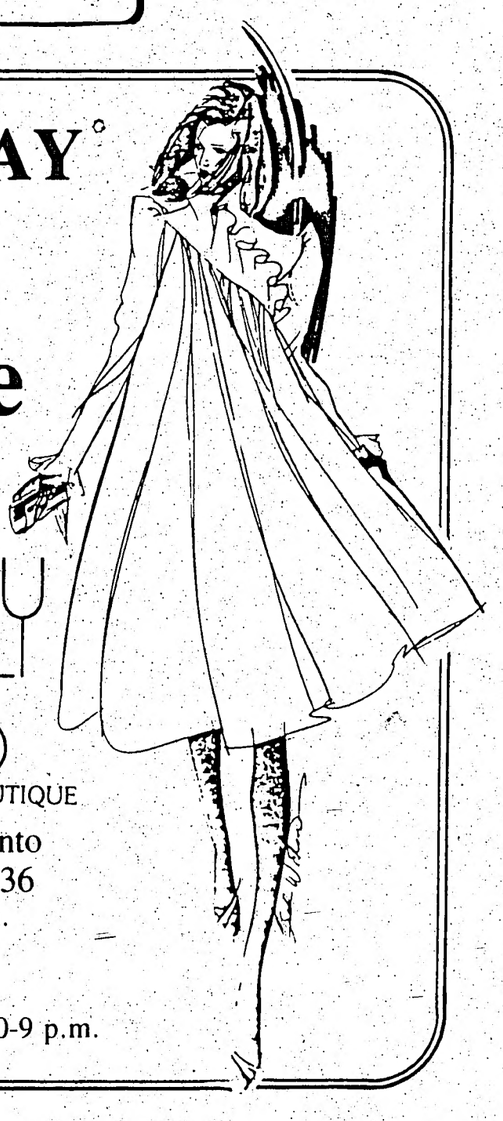

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Actress-turned-TV writer "very busy"

War-era script pleases Sandor most

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

TORONTO —

One night, almost 10 years ago, Anna Sandor's life changed dramatically. The woman who had fulfilled a childhood ambition by becoming an actress was suddenly launched on a writing career that probably surpassed her own expectations.

Today one of Canada's best known TV writers, Sandor was at a dinner party hosted by Louis del Grande, then head writer of The King of Kensington, when fate intervened.

During a slack moment in the conversation, Sandor reached into her purse and retrieved some pieces of paper on which she had penned doggerel. She read it, and del Grande was impressed. "You're a writer," he told her, paying her a prescient compliment.

Sandor, now 35, had never thought of herself in such terms. Ever since the age of 3, when her parents took her to see The Nutcracker in a Budapest theatre, Sandor's all-consuming ambition had been to act on the stage.

"I knew what I wanted," she said.

By 14, she was doing television work in Montreal. After graduating from the University of Windsor's theatre school, Sandor embarked on a professional career, appearing in such venues as the Shaw Festival, the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Montreal's Place des Arts and Toronto's Factory Theatre and Theatre Passe Muraille.

In an effort to bolster her income, she did TV commercials, waxing excitedly on the virtues of Punch detergent, Dial deodorant and Ex-Lax tablets.

That night, in del Grande's house, Sandor had already grown tired of her acting career. For a variety of reasons, she sought change.

Delighted with her doggerel, del Grande asked her to produce a script for The King of Kensington, one of Canada's most popular situation comedies. Together with del Grande's wife, Martha Gibson, Sandor hammered one out.

Anna Sandor

To her amazement, del Grande liked it. "I've literally not stopped writing since."

In the past decade, Sandor has written over 50 TV scripts, all for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, collecting two ACTRA Award nominations in the process.

The mother of an infant girl, Sandor wrote more than 30 episodes of The King of Kensington and, currently, she and her husband, producer Bill Gough, churn out scripts for Seeing Things, starring Louis del Grande.

Sandor has also contributed to For The Record and, presently, she is working on adapting Constance Beresford-Howe's novel, The Marriage Bed, to television.

The script she is proudest of is Charlie Grant's War, scheduled to be telecast on the CBC on Jan. 27 at 8 p.m. Charlie Grant's War, which her husband of five years produced, is about a Canadian hero who became something of a legend by helping some 600 Viennese Jews get out of Nazi-occupied Austria.

"Charlie Grant has been my most satisfying experience as a writer," she said in an interview the other afternoon. "It was something I really wanted to write."

Sandor sweated through five drafts before the script was camera-ready, and her husband threatened to resign before the powers that-be at CBC decided it was a worthy project.

"In most respects, Charlie came out the way I saw it," she said. "Everybody went through hell to get it right."

In her view, Charlie Grant's War — which already has been acclaimed by several critics — posits three basic messages, besides offering top-flight drama.

It says that an individual, even under adverse circumstances, can be a force for good. It exposes Canada's callous and anti-semitic attitude toward Jewish refugees immediately before and during World War II. It shows that the Holocaust, revisionist scribblers notwithstanding, really did happen.

For Sandor, the project first saw the light of day when she opened the Sunday [Toronto] Star over the breakfast table and happened to read a long feature on Grant, a Torontonian most Canadians still haven't heard of.

The child of Holocaust survivors, Sandor was greatly struck by that story, even though she had no "overwhelming passion" for Jewish affairs.

On a desultory basis, she started to write a script about the man who may well be recognized one day as Canada's Raoul Wallenberg.

Surprisingly, Sandor finds it easier to write dramas than situation comedies. "It's very difficult to do a good sitcom," she explained. "There are so many bad ones. In addition to character development, you need the humor, the jokes."

It helps, she added, to have a natural wit.

Sandor, who has no regrets whatsoever about leaving acting, has of late turned to fiction.

Recently, she and her husband, a Newfoundlander, made an appearance in Finger Prints [Irwin Publishing], a collection of mystery stories by Canadian crime writers like Howard Engel, Ellen Godfrey and Tony Aspler. Their story was entitled An Evening at the Opera.

Having finished that, she and Gough are now writing a novel.

Asked is she has ever thought of moving to the U.S., Sandor said, "We're in Canada by choice and we're very busy here."

This doesn't mean that Sandor does not have an agent in the U.S. "The money in Canada is laughable compared to the U.S.," she said, voicing a common Canadian complaint.

If an irresistible offer cropped up, one that "I couldn't refuse," she would take the plunge, like so many other Canadians who've gone south and never looked back.

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Travel

Group ranges in age from 55 to 73

90 hardy Canadians cycle their way across Australia

TORONTO —

Ninety members of the Cross Canada Cycle Tour Society, with ages ranging from 55 to 73, bicycled their way over more than 5,000 kilometres of the vast continent of Australia, proving that it is never too late to take that trip of a lifetime down under.

Last August the original 94-member team, lead by Bert Robinson, 66, took the Qantas flight from Vancouver to Cairns, the northern gateway to Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Well earned recognition for the 90-member Canadian cycling team during 60-day tour of Australia. New South Wales minister for tourism, Michael Cleary, makes a presentation to group leader, Bert Robinson of Vancouver, during the team's stay in Sydney. Looking on is Canadian consul general in Sydney, Bob Burchell.

Their 2-month odyssey ended on Oct. 24 in Adelaide, with memories of some of the most remarkable natural and historic sights of Australia.

The journey started in the Atherton Tablelands, a 600-900-metre plateau with deep ravines and crater lakes, and then it was on to the rough terrain of the Barrier Reef Coast.

A train ride took them to Maryborough at Innesfail, from where they cycled to Brisbane, the state capital of Queensland, in time to enjoy the Warana Spring Festival of sports, arts and culture.

From Brisbane they cycled to New South Wales, the oldest of the six states of Australia, taking in the South Pacific coast from Tweed Heads to Cape Byron, to Kempsey, Port MacQuarrie and onward to Sydney, the state capital and then to Canberra, the nation's capital.

Sydney, the oldest and liveliest city in Australia, offered much to see both from a historical and cultural perspective, and equally significant was the cyclists' meetings in Canberra with the Prime Minister of Australia and with Ed Schreyer, our Canadian high commissioner.

From Canberra, the cyclists headed to the Garden State, Victoria, to see its diverse landscape of deserts, rain forests, snowfields, tobacco plantations, vineyards and potato fields.

They visited small homesteads, country inns, and also the gracious city of Melbourne, which is the state capital.

Heading northwest, they traveled to the fourth and final state on their itinerary, South Australia, famed for its wine, art festivals and warm hospitality.

The voyage ended appropriately in "festival city," Adelaide, at a reception on the lawns of Government House.

Only five cyclists had to give up en route due to ill health, but the others are proudly saying that they are in "great shape" and "totally overwhelmed by both the scenery and hospitality" that they encountered.

As a true test of strength and endurance, the team cycled an average of 66 kilometres per day and spent most of the nights under canvas, rising at 6 a.m. to prepare breakfast and the day's lunch. They would leave camp at 7, stop once for lunch, and would aim to reach the next camp by 3 p.m.

A truck carrying supplies and 75 tents followed the team throughout the journey.

The Cross Canada Cycle Tour Society was formed in 1982 as a non-profit organization. In 1983 37 members cycled from Victoria, BC to St. John's, Nfld., covering some 7,000 kilometres in 14 weeks — a "warmup" to this odyssey in Australia.

The group included residents of British Columbia and Ontario and was made up of people from all walks of life: a clergyman, a nurse, an architect, an accountant, a lawyer, a pilot, a realtor, a theatre manager, a welder, a police captain, a clock maker and many businessmen and homemakers. There were 16 married couples and the ratio of males to females was 60% to 40%.

For further information on the places visited by the cyclists or on travel opportunities in Australia in general, contact The Australian Tourist Commission, 120 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 220, Toronto, M4P 1E2; telephone (416) 487-2126.

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Magnificent variety of wildlife

Everglades offers change of pace in Florida

By
JAMES MONTAGNES

MIAMI BEACH — Should you want a change of pace from the life of this resort community, consider Everglades National Park to the south, where you can see dozens of varieties of birds, drive through or paddle your way through swamp lands and winding creeks, even camp in wilderness areas.

From mid-December to spring you can enjoy daily guided walks, talks, demonstrations and campfire programs arranged by the United States National Park Service naturalists. There are programs for those with days to spend and others for those pressed for time.

If you are with limited time, take U.S. Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) west out of Miami to Shark Valley Overlook. During the winter season hourly guided tram tours take visitors seven miles into the interior of the park to a 25-foot high observation tower.

You'll have a good panoramic view of this wilderness swampland as the tram loops back to the park entrance. No cars are allowed on this loop road. The tram road is also open to hikers and cyclists, with bicycles available free at the park entrance.

You can enter Everglades National Park by car from Miami via U.S. Highway 1 south to Florida City, then Florida State Road 27 to the park entrance and the visitor centre. From here there is a 38-mile surfaced road winding through a portion of the park, with side roads, to Flamingo on Florida Bay at the southern end of the state.

While there is no public transportation along this 38-mile stretch of park road, you can take a 1-day trip on one of the bus tours operated by tour operators out of Miami.

Along the road you'll see small islands of vegetation called hammocks, and with luck also see white tailed deer, black bear, panthers, bobcats and raccoons.

Among the freshwater creeks and ponds of this tall grassland, salt water from Florida Bay mixes to some extent and is reflected by the large seabirds you'll likely see such as herons, cranes as well as ibis, eagles and ospreys.

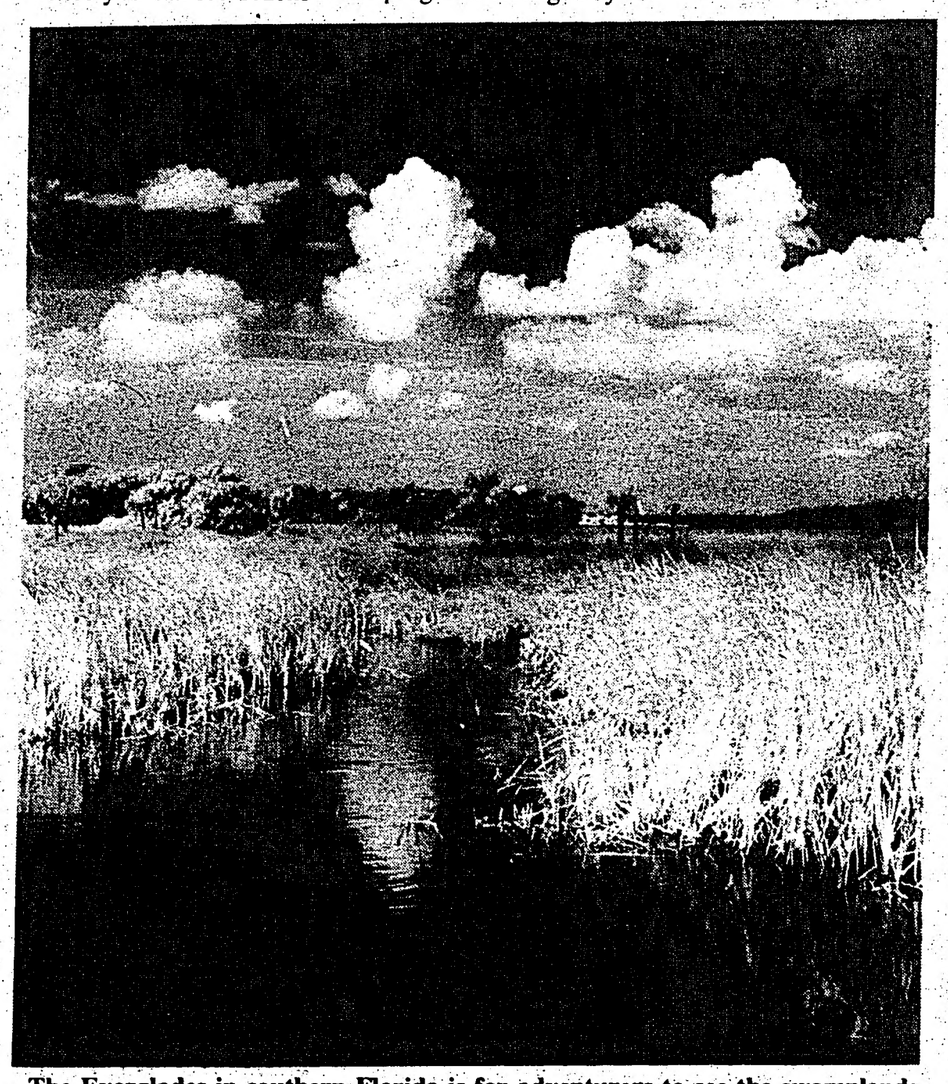
From the southern end of the road at Flamingo there are four marked canoe routes in the park. The 99-mile waterway between Flamingo and Everglades City on the Gulf of Mexico coast winds through rivers, creeks and bays inside a mangrove wilderness.

You can make the trip by water in one day by power boat if need be. Along the way are primitive campsites for those who like to do the trails by canoe, but if you plan to camp you must file a route plan with a park ranger station before embarking on the trip.

Guided canoe tours can be arranged through Everglades Canoe Outfitters, 39801 Ingraham Highway, Homestead, Fla., and Sammy Hamilton Boat Tours, PO Box 119, Everglades City, Fla.

In the Everglades region and southern part of Florida you are bound to also see alligators and crocodiles. In the waterways along the coast another protected animal is the manatee or sea cow, which ancient mariners called mermaids. It is a placid slow-moving creature that migrates inland to warmer waters near springs during the winter months.

The Everglades National Park is a low-lying region with an average elevation of only 5 feet above water. It covers some 2,000 square miles of southern Florida, has been a national park since 1947, and is still home to a number of Indian tribes.



The Everglades in southern Florida is for adventurers to see the swamplands which were once much of the coastal region, teeming with bird and wildlife.

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First professional baseball player included

Seven men enter Jewish Sports Hall of Fame

sports scene

Co-ordinated By PAUL LUNGEN

A total of seven former Jewish sports greats — four Americans and three Europeans — have been selected to join the 66 Jewish athletes already installed in the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame at the Wingate School of Physical Education in Netanya.

Joseph Siegman of the United States, chairman of the board of the International Hall of Fame, announced the selections were made at a meeting of the international selection committee held recently in Israel.

The induction into the Hall of the seven selectees will take place during the Maccabiah Games scheduled for July 15-25 in Israel.

Heading the American list is Lipman Pike, the first professional baseball player in the United States. He was born May 25, 1845 in New York City and died Oct. 10, 1893. Primarily an outfielder, he played every position during his career and batted and threw left handed.

Pike came to the attention of the Philadelphia As in 1866 and his potential was so great, he was offered $20 per week to play third base for the club. He accepted and thus became baseball's first professional performer.

Several other players quickly followed Pike's example and subsequently teams became mixtures of amateurs and pros. It wasn't until 1869 that the first all-pro team was born in Cincinnati. In his first season of play with the As, Pike hit six home runs — five in a row — in a game against the Alerts.

Other Americans named to the the Hall include Dr. Joseph Alexander, All-American football star at Syracuse University, and boxers Samuel Berger and Samuel Mosberg.

Alexander made the All-American college team as a guard during the 1918 season. He played professionally with the Rochester Jeffersons, Philadelphia Quakers, the New York Giants, Frankford Yellow Jackets, the Rochester Kodaks and the Milwaukee Badgers. He made the 1925 National Football League All-Star Team.

Alexander was the first player signed by the Giants when the NFL granted that organization a franchise in 1925. Actually he applied for the job as head coach, but when told by management that a coach already had been signed, he consented to play centre for $3,000 per annum. Among his teammates was Jim Thorpe, the great Indian athlete.

Alexander, incidentally, was one of the few Giants to receive a yearly salary. He subsequently took over as mentor of the Giant 11 in 1926 but due to his medical duties it was virtually impossible for him to carry out his assignment and as a result of his heavy practice in the medical field he frequently was late for practice sessions.

However, he did coach the team to an 8-4 record, while playing from time to time. At the end of the season Alexander and Giant management agreed it would be of interest to both parties if he gave up his coaching reins. He played one more season, the following year, and that closed out his pro career.

The New York World Telegram placed Alexander on its All-Time All-America Team at guard in 1937 while George Trevor of the New York Sun hailed him as the greatest collegiate guard during the 1919-1929 era.

Boxing champ

Boxer Samuel Berger was born in Chicago in 1884 and died in 1925. In 1904 he became the first Olympic heavyweight boxing champion. It was the first time boxing was included on the Olympic program. He turned professional shortly after the conclusion of the Games.

Berger fought only twice as a professional, and in his first contest he met light-heavyweight champion Jack O'Brien in a 6-round no-decision bout in Philadelphia. Subsequently he served as a sparring partner, advisor and manager for Jim Jeffries when Jeffries made his comeback against the great Jack Johnson in 1910.

The second Olympic boxing champion to be entered in the Hall of Fame is Samuel Mosberg, who was Olympic lightweight champ in 1920. Actually, he was selected as an alternate for the 1920 American Olympic boxing squad which was sent to Antwerp, Belgium, for the contest.

On the boat trip over, Mosberg got his big chance when he defeated one of the three boxers previously chosen, He was so impressive on the ship that he was allowed to start in the Olympics. He beat a Dane by the name of Johannsen for the lightweight title and during the eliminations he came up with the quickest knockout in Olympic history, putting a South African to sleep in a matter of seconds.

Upon his return to the United States, Mosberg turned pro and fought as a stablemate of the late Benny Leonard. He fought in a total of 57 professional bouts. He coached the United States Maccabiah Games boxing team in 1953 and was active in a variety of Jewish affairs throughout his lifetime.

An Englishman, Alan Jay; a Hungarian, Attila Petschauer; and a Russian athlete, Grigori Novak are the other three athletes who have been voted into the Jewish Hall of Fame.

Jay, who born in London in 1931, won Olympic silver medals for his country in 1960 for individual epee and the epee team. He was the 1959 world foil champion in that sport.

Petschauer was not as fortunate as Jay despite the fact that he won three Olympic medals for Hungary: a gold in team sabre, a silver in individual sabre in 1928 and a gold in team sabre in 1932. Born in Budapest in 1904, he froze to death in a Nazi labor camp in Russia in 1944.

Novak was born in Chernobyl, Ukraine, in 1920 and died in 1976. During his career he established over 55 world records for weightlifting, and won a 1952 Olympic silver medal in the middle-heavyweight division.

He began his athletic career as an acrobat and turned to weightlifting at the age of 16. By the time he was 19 he had established the first of his world records.

Novak served as a lieutenant in the Russian army during World War II and was cited for bravery on four different occasions. He joined a circus in Russia and Poland after the war, and performed acrobatics and feats of strength during his career.

— Haskell Cohen

* * *

More than 200 men are expected to participate in a "ski day" on behalf of Haifa University, according to Canadian Friends' Toronto chapter chairman Michael Davis. "The 'day' is scheduled for Jan. 11 at the Alpine Ski Club, Craigleith," Davis said, "and is a 'men only' event."

Donation included

A donation to the university's chancellor's Development Fund is included in the $150 ticket price. The ticket also covers round-trip bus transportation from Toronto, breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as wine, beer and cheese "apres ski," a tow ticket and a chance at valuable raffle prizes.

Rental equipment will be available nearby. Tickets are available from the Friends' office at 665-4462.

* * *

It costs $3,500 to send an athlete to the Maccabiah Games in Israel, and Maccabi Ontario's fund raising committee of Irving Ungerman (national fund raising chairman), Alex Fisher, Don Kirsch, Gerry Epstein, Jeff Engel and Sid Greenberg, meet regularly to discuss new approaches to drum up the funds.

The star event in the Maccabi constellation this time around is a cocktail, auction and draw party at the Inn on the Park, Toronto, on Monday, May 13.

Subscription is $200 per couple, with a first prize $10,000 in gold, second prize $5,000 in silver and thir a $2,500 flight for two to Israel plus tow VIP Maccabiah Games packages.

Sid Greenberg, Maccabi Ontario chairman, told The CJN that 1,500 tickets had been distributed by early December and approximately 750 sold. By the end of January, he said, "we hope to have the other 750 sold."

* * *

If you attended five to six hundred sports events every year you might be considered somewhat of a sports fanatic. But for Mort Greenberg, CBC cameraman for the past 23 years, it's all part and parcel of the job he loves.

It's a rather pleasant change from all the gossip and backbiting that abounds in the world of professional sports to find Greenberg a totally modest, unassuming man, who has nary a bad word to say about anyone in the sports world after 30 years in the business.

"I enjoy my job immensely," he says. "It's a real pleasure to see athletes or announcers come up through the ranks and make it big professionally."

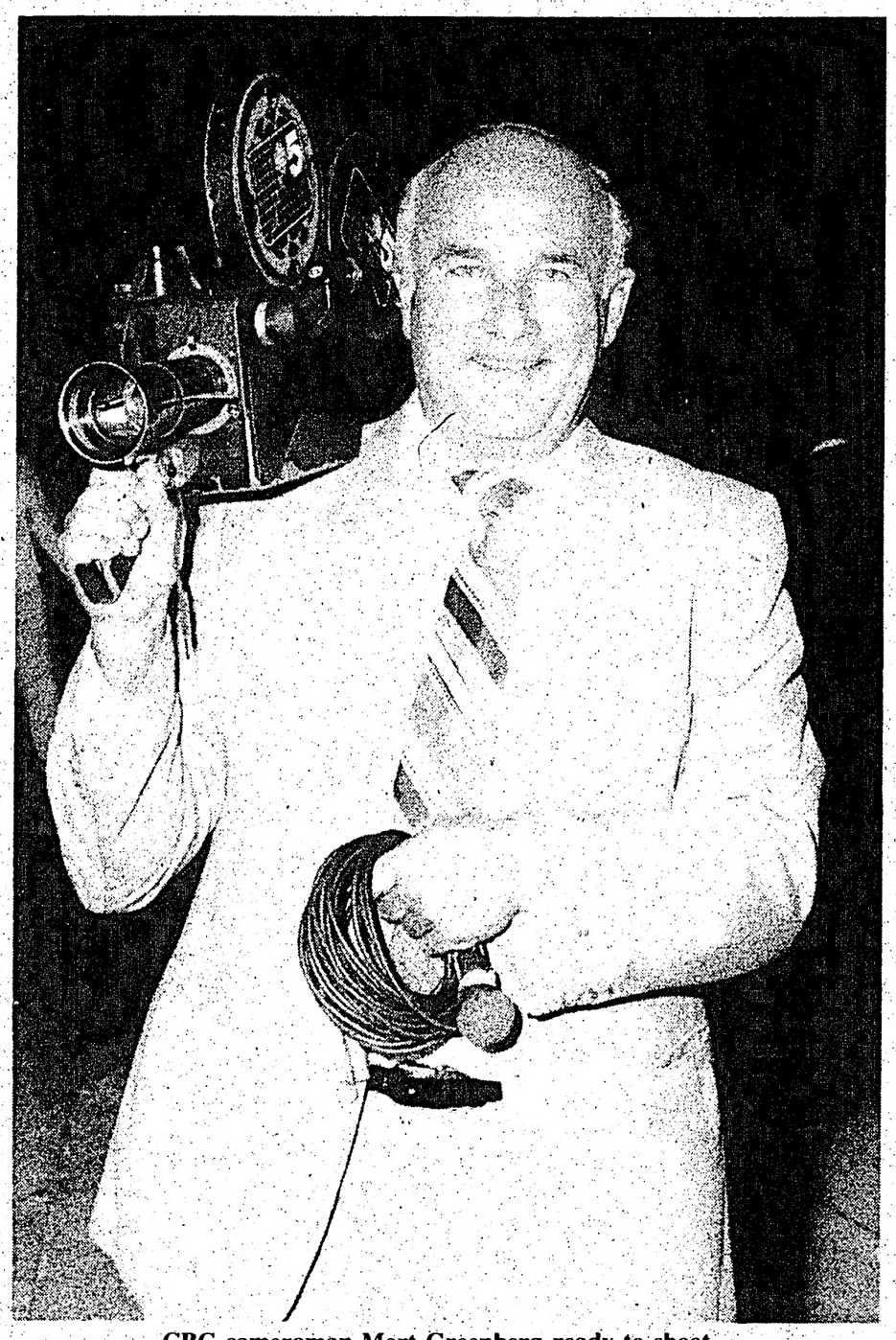
Greenberg was born in Toronto in 1929 and attended school here, before going to California to study theatre arts at UCLA.

After graduating he returned to Toronto where he took a job as a film editor with the CBC.

In 1958 he took 32 months off to explore Europe where he met Simon Wiesenthal.

"I was instrumental in his writing The Enemies Are Among Us back in the early 60s. I still visit with him in his bureau in Vienna," he says.

Greenberg is a big opera and theatre buff, hence the annual excursions to Vienna and London. He has nurtured friendships with such opera stars as Beverly Sills and Birgit Nilsson.



CBC cameraman Mort Greenberg ready to shoot.

But before we get too far afield, it's important to remember that Mort has seen nearly every major sports event and superstar that has come to Toronto in the last 20 years.

He considers Gordie Howe's family his "family"and he's seen the likes of Frank Mahovilich and George Chuvalo rise through the ranks to win championships.

In 1974 he accompanied the WHA all-stars to Moscow which he calls, "one of the biggest thrills of my life. I got to meet my cousins for the first time and of course the hockey was tremendous."

While Greenberg has had his fair share of professional sport thrills, he is equally adamant in his support of amateur sports in Canada.

He gets mildly upset when talking about what he calls "the shameful lack of support Canada's amateur athletes receive from our government and private sector.

"It's a real shame to see kids with a lot of potential not being able to get the best out of themselves, through no fault of their own."

Greenberg practices what he preaches. In 1981 the province of Ontario saw fit to recognize his work with amateur athletes with a presentation and last year he was awarded with a trophy at the Conn Smythe Sportsmen's Banquet for service to the disabled.

Over the years Greenberg has not only seen athletes rise to national prominence but a fair share of broadcasters as well. He has worked with the like of Don Chevrier, Fred Scambatti and Tom McKee.

But with typical modesty Greenberg dismisses his work with the greats by saying, " It's more difficult for them than it is for me. I just have to make sure I've got film in the camera."

But one past CBC sportsman knows Mort's real worth. Earl McRae dedicated his last book to Greenberg with the words, "for Mort — with much applause, one of the real pros."

Nuff said!

— David Pierson

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Business Outlook

It pays to compare packages

Borrower's market exists for mortgage money

By
PAT YOUNG

TORONTO —

A borrower's market has developed for mortgage money. The banks that so actively courted the energy business in Alberta, and rushed to make loans to Latin America have found their best loans are the homegrown loans — mortgage loans and consumer loans.

This area of business represents to the banks and trust companies an important area of their growth today . . . and it's being reflected in their marketing plans.

Banks and trust companies not only have reservoirs of funds they are eager to lend, they have also developed a multiplicity of options for the home buyer.

Among the options available are:

• **The weekly mortgage** — once the sole purview of credit unions — is now available through Canada Trustco Mortgage Co. and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Through weekly payments, the borrower makes the equivalent of one extra monthly payment annually. In the process, there's a reduction on the principal, which shortens the amortization period, and reduces the total interest payments.

It's an expensive procedure for the lender in terms of administration costs and computer conversion. For the borrower it requires tight controls on the family budget.

• **Early renewal.** Here, if the borrower's mortgage is due for renewal, and he believes rates will rise, then renegotiation of the mortgage prior to maturity, and at prevailing rates, is advised.

For this option, lenders will charge an interest rate differential for the remaining time period on the old mortgage if the new mortgage rate is lower. In addition, there may be a charge of ¼-½% premium on the new term.

Further, some lenders impose a restriction on this option, offering it only in the final six months prior to the maturity of a mortgage, while others permit early renewal at any time.

• **Lump sum payments.** The majority of lenders allow annual payments on the principal of 10-15%, with no penalty to the borrower.

• **Payment increases.** This is exactly what it says. The borrower may increase payments from 10% to 100%. The benefits are the same as for the weekly mortgage.

These options have been widely publicized. However, the borrower needs to analyze and compare other features, and their costs, when making any mortgage arrangement. For example:

• **Appraisal fees.** When a borrower applies for a mortgage, the lender undertakes a professional appraisal and inspection of the property. This appraisal ensures that the value of the house is higher than the loan under request.

Fees range from $85 at the Royal Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia, to $175 at Canada Permanent, with a median rate of $125.

• **Commitment period.** This is the length of time between the initiation, or renewal, of a mortgage and the disbursement of funds. The majority of lenders allow 60 days on a new loan, and 30 days for renewals.

Should interest rates decline in this time period, the borrower will usually be allowed the lower rate at the time of the disbursement. If mortgage rates increase, then the lender will maintain the original quotation.

• **Mortgage discharge.** When the borrower elects to pay off his/her debt to the lender, for whatever reasons, there is a discharge fee involved, plus any penalties. These penalties vary from the interest the lender may lose on the time remaining on the term of the mortgage, to a 3-month interest only penalty.

While the mortgage market is very competitive and the lending institutions are courting the home buyer's cash, it's still caveat emptor.

The burden to understand terms, terminology, and the myriad mortgage packages available rests with the borrower.

It also pays to shop around and compare the packages offered by the lending institutions, then have a real estate lawyer scrutinize the commitments, obligations and ramifications behind each transaction, thereby ensuring that the family mortgage can never short-circuit the family budget.

From Israel to Canada

Trade exports up in 1984

By
FRANK RASKY

TORONTO —

"I've received my Chanukah gift . . . and it's a $75 million whopper," Yair Ofek, Israel's trade commissioner to Canada, told The CJN in a jubilant mood last week.

He was referring to Israel's giant leap in trade exports to Canada for 1984, which he confidently expects to reach a record $75 million by the end of this month — up $20 million from $55 million last year.

He was equally happy about the number of Canadian buyers he has persuaded to attend two important trade fairs in Tel Aviv in 1985.

Fifteen Canadian importers of foodstuffs, including the buyers for three of Canada's major supermarket chains, will participate in the Israel Food Week 85 Fair to be held at the Tel Aviv Hilton beginning Jan. 20.

They will help boost Israel's food exports to Canada, which in the first eight months of this year amounted to more than $10 million. Besides Israel's internationally renowned oranges, the exports include tomatoes, carrots, biscuits, chocolates, and a wide range of other edibles from soup to nuts.

Food buyers from throughout Europe, the U.S. and even Japan will be attending the fair, says Ofek.

In addition, things look rosy for the Israel Fashion Fair 85, which will be held Feb. 26 to 28 at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

It will feature the internationally celebrated beachwear of Gottex Fashions, plus the less expensive swimwear of Israeli designers Gideon Oberson and Diva, and an array of other apparel.

Ofek expects more than 10 Canadian wholesale buyers to attend. He hopes it will be as fruitful as the Israeli fashion fair held last August.

Ofek persuaded the buyer for a chain of 26 women's wear stores across Canada to attend.

I was frankly skeptical about your offerings in the promised land," the buyer told Ofek on his return to Toronto. "But I was really knocked out by your advanced styling. Not only that, your prices are lower than the apparel of equivalent high quality being sold by the big fashion houses of Europe."

The buyer, who prefers not to have his name used at this time, is now planning a spectacular 2-week Israel fashion promotion in his stores next March.

Yair Ofek

Ofek is planning several additional Canadian trade missions to make Israeli industrial tours in the new year.

By the year's end, he figures Canadian exports to Israel will total about $135 million — up $15 million from $120 million in 1983. The Canadian products include barley, sulphur, asbestos, lumber, copper, pipes, pulp and paper, power boilers, light aircraft engine parts, auto parts, and card-punchers for computers.

Besides food and fashion products, Israeli exports to Canada include hi-tech communications equipment, electronic components, sophisticated medical and printing devices, security systems, and diamonds.

Ofek, a 40-year-old University of Tel Aviv graduate, is beginning his fourth year of service as Israel's Toronto-based trade commissioner.

"The number of Israeli businessmen coming to Toronto to make deals for Canada-Israel joint ventures is on the increase," he said. "I feel very optimistic over our growing trade relations in the new year."

New bulk food store

New York chic in Thornhill

TORONTO —

An aura of New York-style chic pervades Sungarden Fine Foods, which opened recently in Thornhill's Bayview Hills Mall at 7355 Bayview Ave.

"Fresh foodstuffs with an emphasis on gourmet exotic, everything from caviar to papayas, will be featured here," said assistant manager Diane Kustec at the official opening of the bright and airy, 10,500-square-foot emporium.

She said an expected 70% of the clientele would be Jewish, and they would luxuriate in an ambience of floor-to-ceiling benjamina trees, blowups of sumptuous edibles on the walls and luminous skylights.

It's the newest in the chain of 18 Johnvince Foods Ltd. bulk food stores throughout Ontario.

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VILLAGE
REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

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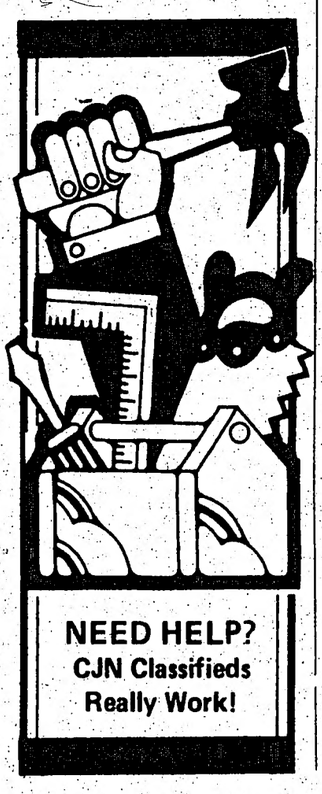

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Quebec's Jews analyzed in new essay collection

By JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — The Institut quebecois de recherche sur la culture has published a collection of essays analyzing the position of the Jewish community in Quebec past and present. Juifs et Realites juives au Quebec, edited by Pierre Anctil and Gary Caldwell, was recently launched at the Jewish Public Library during Jewish Book Month.

The publishers call the 360-page book the first in the French language offering an overview of the Jewish community in the province from a sociological perspective. This academic work focuses on what determines the Jewish identity and how that fits in with the persistent question of who is a Quebecois.

The many aspects of the Jewish reality in Quebec are examined through discussions of immigration and demography, economic factors, social organization, religious and literature.

A deeper knowledge of the Jews in Quebec, the publishers say, will serve to dissipate some of the misunderstandings of the past and promote a greater awareness of the pluralistic nature of the province today.

In 1981, the Institute published Les Juifs du Quebec: Bibliographie retrospective annotee, by David Rome, Judith Nefsky (both archivists of the Canadian Jewish Congress) and Paule Obermeir. This book listed sources for research on almost every aspect of the Quebec Jewish community. The institut, based in Quebec City, is funded by the Quebec government.

Cover of Juifs et Realites Juives au Quebec published by the Institut quebecois de rechereche sur la culture, featuring photo by Edward Hillel.

Juifs et Realites Juives au Quebec is part of a series on the major ethnic groups living in the province. The editors say that too often in the past the Jewish community has been studied from a Canadian perspective, thus neglecting the unique secular ties between francophone Quebecois and Jews.

The first part of the book is devoted to the Jews' self-perception. Alti Rodal, of the University of Ottawa's department of languages and modern literature, writes on the Jewish identity in general terms. Morton Weinfeld, an associate professor of sociology at McGill University, looks at the contemporary Quebec situation.

The second part contains entries by David Rome; Alexandra Szacka, Pierre Anctil and Gary Caldwell, all researchers for the institut; Alti Rodal; and Ben Shek, a French professor at the University of Toronto.

A whole chapter is based on an analysis of issues of The Canadian Jewish News from 1976-81 chronicling the Jewish community's reaction to the political changes in Quebec. It is written by Rona Donefer, a student in cultural animation specializing in cultural communities at the Universite du Quebec a Montreal.

The book also contains a glossary of Hebrew and Yiddish terms and a map of the sites of over 80 Jewish institutions.

C.J.N.'s
SPRING & SUMMER
TRAVEL SPECIAL
IS COMING
JANUARY 31/85
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Home care spending up

First retail health service to open its doors soon

By
BEN ROSE

TORONTO —

The Ontario health ministry will spend $121 million on home care this year, nearly 10 times as much as it spent in 1975, and important new homemaker services will be announced soon, Paul Donoghue, director of community health programs, said at a recent reception sponsored by Medical Personnel Pool.

Donoghue said the large expenditure for this purpose is a good investment for the government because it means the difference between people with chronic illnesses being able to stay at home instead of in a hospital or institution.

At the same time, Mitchell Gallinger, president of Medical Personnel Pool, announced the opening in January of the first retail health service of its kind at 989 Eglinton Ave. W. on the ground floor of the Glen Garden Senior Citizens Apartment Building. The Home Health Care Centre will offer sales and rentals of home health aids as well as free in-house assessments and an information and resource centre.

Gallinger told the gathering of 300 health service personnel that his company's major new initiative comes as a result of a growing demand for home diagnostic aids and equipment. It will provide 24-hour service and free home delivery.

He said the success of MPP is based on its 800 homemakers, registered nursing assistants and registered nurses and that the home health care centre is a result of the company's policy of "constantly seeking new ways of improving health services to the public."

Donohgue said the health budget of the Ontario government is now up to $8.2 billion, almost double what it was four years ago, and it represents 30% of the government's total expenditure. This means $1,000 is spent on health for every man, woman and child in the province.

Expenditures in caring for the elderly will continue to grow, Mr. Donoghue said, because by the year 2,000 the number of people in Ontario in the upper age brackets will increase by 57%. In the 75 to 84 age group specifically, the increase will be 80%.

Although senior citizens represent only 10% of Ontario's population they consume 32% of its health services, he noted.

"We must use every health care dollar as effectively as possible," he said. "We can look forward to initiatives in the community health sector to support the elderly at home. We have already made significant strides in services to the elderly who are living longer and remaining longer in the community. Our objective is to preserve their health and independence and provide access to good institutional services when that is necessary."

He noted recent improvements in chiropody services and geriatric day hospitals, geriatric assessment units and geriatric placement services.

"We're very excited about the Home Health Care Centre," said Gallinger. A neon sign will light up the Eglinton location before the end of the year. Besides displaying the latest in health aids and equipment, the store will have areas set aside for counseling and a library and resource centre for health information.

Gallinger's wife, Hanita, heads up the new operation, while Mrs. Gallinger's sister, Karen Stanton, is its marketing consultant. Hanita and Karen, who were born at Ramat Hasharon, near Tel Aviv, in Israel, are the daughters of Harry and Bella Tiefenbach, who live just around the corner from the new health centre.

Hanita was assistant executive director of Toronto Western Hospital for three years and Karen has been associated with Humber College in organizing seminars for business and education.

Both women are looking forward to setting up free public seminars featuring health professionals. Among subjects being considered are nutrition, weight control and stress.

"We will go to senior citizen apartments or to synagogue sisterhood and brotherhood meetings, wherever people want us," Hanita told The CJN.

A glucose testing apparatus which can be used effectively in the home is one of the new aids available to diabetics, she said. In recent years there have been improvements in bathroom and bedroom aids, including elevation toilet seats, bar lifts for the bathtub, and commodes on wheels. Walking aids are also improved.

The free home assessment for services and equipment will be an important feature, according to Karen. "As part of our counseling we will provide information on health insurance plans and whether people are eligible for free equipment and services," she said.

BC vet impressed by Israel's advances

By
WOLF MATSDORF

JERUSALEM —

Israel's achievements in embryo transplantation in dairy cattle have greatly impressed Dr. Gordon Macdonald, a veterinary surgeon and researcher from British Columbia, who recently toured the country during the first Israel International Tourism Conference.

Veterinarians, farmers, agricultural journalists, tour operators and government officials from North America, England, Europe and South Africa came to Israel for the conference held under the joint sponsorship of the ministries of agriculture and tourism.

Macdonald, whose special interest is animal genetics and artifical insemination, said the progress made in Israel in the fields of reproduction in the dairy industry has given him ideas that he hopes to utilize in his own work.

"As a member of the Canadian Embryo Transfer Association, I will tell my colleagues how much Israel has to offer in the field of agricultural technology," he said, adding that the country's innovations have made it one of the world leaders in agriculture.

During their 10-day stay in the country, participants in the conference had the opportunity to observe the results of scientific experiments at the Weizmann Institute, the Volcani Institute and other agricultural research facilities. They also saw some of Israel's latest agricultural developments on kibbutzim and moshavim in the Galilee and the Coastal Plain.

As well, they met with officials of the agricultural export organization Agrexco, conferred with dignitaries and leaders from Arab villages and visited Jerusalem, Bethlehem and the Dead Sea region.

Another Canadian in the group was Bill Davis from BC who had come with the idea of promoting Israel agricultural tourism in Canada. He extended his stay in order to find out more about life on kibbutzim.

Davis spoke with great admiration about Israel's developments in horticulture, and said he plans to lead a tour of a group of Canadian fruit and vegetable growers in the near future to be followed by a tour with poultry producers.

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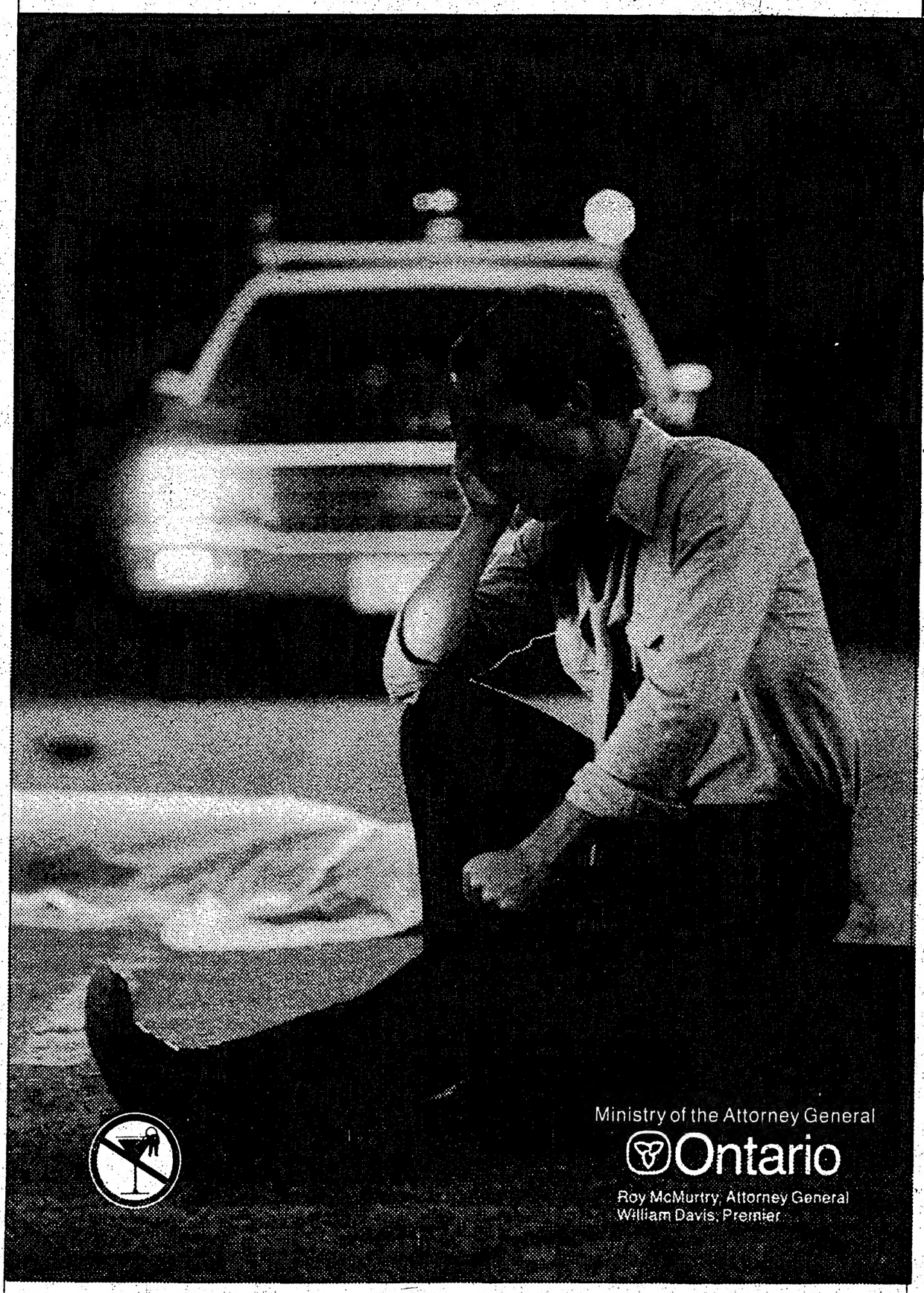

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